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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 18871

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1995 • SHVAT 18, 5755 • SHAABAN 17, 1415

NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

**'Tibi bill,'
5 others
pass
early
readings
Rabin to MKs:
You're all stupid**

LIAT COLLINS

THE coalition suffered a string of defeats on six bills yesterday, leaving Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin literally red in the face and shouting, "You're all stupid."

Likud MKs cheered as the results appeared on the screen.

The first defeat came over Moshe Katsav's so-called Tibi bill, which passed a preliminary reading. The bill is aimed at preventing Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli citizen, from acting as an adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat or the Palestinian Authority.

It calls for a three-year prison sentence for Israeli citizens who act as advisers or employees of an enemy, or state conducting negotiations with Israel, without special permission from the government.

The forum of Israeli Arab Council heads yesterday roundly denounced the bill.

"This is a totally unrealistic bill, which cannot stand in light of the new era in the region," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab council heads.

"Something like this can only harm the peace process, because it is putting the PLO and others involved in negotiations back into the category of being enemies. It would also harm our [Israeli Arab] role, because we see ourselves as a bridge to peace and this would cut the foundations of the bridge," said Suleiman.

The bill was debated after most of the coalition MKs had left the building, following the morning's votes on the Economic Arrangements Law. The cabinet was also having a special meeting on legislation relating to the Dead Sea Works in Rabin's office.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, responding to the bill for the government, dragged out his response for nearly 20 minutes while Labor party whip Ya'acov Shefi frantically tried to locate coalition MKs for the vote.

After trying the cafeteria in vain, Shefi was forced to burst in on the cabinet meeting. Thirteen ministers rushed to the plenum in time for the vote, but the bill still passed 33 to 28.

To add salt to the wound, instead of being sent for discussion to the Knesset Law Committee, where committee chairman MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) could have stalled it almost indefinitely, the bill was sent to the Interior Committee, chaired by Likud MK Yehoshua Matza.

Apart from the Tibi bill, the other bills which passed first or preliminary readings despite government objections were: Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg's double-fine bill; NRP MK Yigal Bibi's alimony bill; NRP MK Shaul Yahalom's anti-euthanasia bill; Labor MK Salah Tarif's local council treasurers' bill; and Labor MK Rafi Elul's amendment to the National Planning and Construction Law. David Rudge contributed to this report.

PM, Meretz agree: There is no 'Greater Jerusalem'

SARAH HONIG

make this agreement between Meretz and the prime minister official, and we will then proceed to show who rules in this country

will now have to be approved by the cabinet. A special ministerial committee will be established to supervise private construction in

Rabin-Arafat meet today, Page 2

THE freeze on construction work in the settlements will be deepened, and land confiscations will be allowed only for four bypass roads, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the four Meretz ministers agreed yesterday.

The deal also commits the government to give up its claim to some land in Judea and Samaria classified as state property, and to proclaim that there is no "Greater Jerusalem" or "Jerusalem metropolitan area."

The agreement will be submitted to the cabinet for approval on Sunday, when the government is to debate the thorny issue of construction in settlements adjacent to Jerusalem. The cabinet will also take up the question of privately-funded construction.

Meretz had demanded a meeting with Rabin to express its displeasure at the continuing expansion of settlements around Jerusalem.

"The freeze will not be a sham, but a real freeze, a very deep freeze, one with no nonsense," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said after the meeting. "On Sunday, the government will

and to lay down the law. If any settlers intend to continue their provocations, we will make sure they stop - and stop completely and very quickly."

Any exception to the freeze

the settlements, and Meretz will be represented on the committee.

Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer came out in opposition to the deal, saying it "is tan-

amount to drawing up the lines for the permanent settlement."

Answering several motions to the agenda about continued construction in the territories, he told the Knesset plenum that the 1993 government decision on regions of national priority, which talks of "Greater Jerusalem," is binding.

"I don't intend hiding my commitment to Greater Jerusalem and my belief that it is impossible to exist in Jerusalem without having a strong Ma'aleh Adumim, a strong Betar, and a strong Givat Ze'ev," he said.

The 1993 decision and the

Shives Report, which included Givat Ze'ev, Har Adar, Givon Hahadasha, Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim, Betar, and Efrat as part of Greater Jerusalem, were cited by opposition MKs as proof the concept does exist.

But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres disputed this in conversation with reporters. "There is no such thing as Greater Jerusalem. It is a literary, not a political term."

Jerusalem's borders are those defined by the government decision of 1967 and the 1981 Jerusalem Law, which does not include (Continued on Page 2)



Rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed house in Nishinomiya, western Japan, yesterday. The death toll from the killer earthquake has reached 3,000. (Story, Page 4)

Long-school-day amendment defeated Dayan: Shohat bought votes; Shohat: Dayan is unbalanced

EVELYN GORDON

THE finance minister buys votes and the coalition chairman is unbalanced, to hear Avraham Shohat and Eli Dayan describe each other, following the defeat of the latter's long school day amendment.

Although three Labor MKs supported Dayan, the coalition killed the amendment 58-50 with the aid of Shas and the Arab parties, with United Torah Judaism abstaining.

The Economic Arrangements Law itself passed easily, 57-33, even though the Arab parties vot-

money] for the city of Jerusalem...

"He went to UTJ, he went to Shas ... and threatened to cut their budgets, to cut classes from [their] educational systems," he charged.

Shohat, meanwhile, called a special press conference to respond.

"I'm very sorry that MK Dayan has lost his [mental] balance," he said. "You also have to know how to lose a parliamentary proceeding ... There is no basis to the accusations of vote-buying."

'Dayan must go', Page 12

Mubarak: Israel at fault for stalled peace talks

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak yesterday blamed Israel for the stalled peace talks and urged it to make an effort to get the peace process moving again.

"The peace process is going through a bad phase because of Israel," he said in Paris after talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. "I hope there will be no crisis, because we want peace. The other side must make efforts to push ahead the peace process."

"The tendency is not toward improvement, but quite the contrary" in Egyptian-Israeli relations, Mubarak was quoted as

saying. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, however, played down tensions with Egypt over Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"In the last year, alongside an improvement in relations, there were also some arguments and disagreements. That's the way of the world. Even friends sometimes disagree," Peres told the Knesset.

"In the final analysis this argument will pass. We also want to create a Middle East without nuclear arms and without mutu-

al destruction," he said.

"Israeli-Egyptian relations are a solid fact ... which have stood the test of years isolation by rejectionists. However this doesn't mean they're always cloud-free."

Peres praised Egypt for maintaining open borders, diplomatic relations, and improving economic ties.

Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen said Egypt is speaking in contradictory terms, talking about peace while at the same time carrying out "an expedient and dangerous arming policy."

Likud MK Dov Shilansky warned against "missing or ignoring the signals of war with Egypt, as happened in 1973."

Mubarak declined comment when asked about his differences with Israel on the nuclear issue.

"I don't [want to] go through this issue again. I have made my comments and said my ideas before. I don't want to repeat them," he told reporters.

However French official sources said Mubarak had talked at length with Mitterrand about deteriorating ties between Israel and Egypt, and their conflict over the nuclear treaty.

Forget piranhas and crocodiles - sardines are latest threat to Kinneret

DAVID RUDGE

MOVE over, crocodiles and piranha fish - the latest threat to Lake Kinneret is the diminutive sardine, which has become so populous it is threatening the balance of the lake's ecological system.

The latest threat centers on the lake itself and its indigenous aquatic and plant life rather than

swimmers, especially after the crocodile and piranha fears proved to be completely unfounded.

The Agriculture Ministry has allocated NIS 600,000 to the fisheries department to remove 500 tons of sardines from the lake and destroy them.

Shlomo Bahaloul, deputy di-

rector of the Lake Kinneret Authority, said sardines had not been fished in quantities for two years because they were too small to make a profitable catch.

Since then, however, the population has expanded to the extent that schools of sardines have

been devouring the plankton which is the main food source of other, more desirable, fish such as Amnon (St. Peter's fish).

Bahaloul noted that the sardines, considered harmful in large quantities to the quality of the water in the lake, are still too

small to make catching them worthwhile.

It has therefore been decided to pay fishermen with the trawling equipment necessary to catch them NIS 1.10 for every kilogram of sardines they haul in. He said the work has been going on for the past few weeks and the unwanted sardines are being bur-

ied at garbage dumps.

As for the crocodile scare, Bahaloul said, "All the reported sightings were thoroughly investigated, but what the experts saw were coypu (beaver-like aquatic rodents) which have a swimming action similar to that of crocodiles," he said.

Wiesel will attend Auschwitz liberation commemoration

NEW YORK - Elie Wiesel will represent the World Jewish Congress at the official commemoration in Poland marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the organization announced yesterday, ending a rift that threatened to keep prominent Jews away from the ceremonies.

Concurrently, Polish organizers said a rabbi would say Kaddish during the main commemoration.

Jewish groups had complained about what they consider bungled Polish government planning of the event - especially the omission of Kaddish until after dignitaries left the main ceremony.

The commemorations on January 26 and 27 have been tangled in confusion and controversy. Polish officials had announced that Wiesel would speak, when he had not confirmed he would attend. Officials also announced that Jewish representatives had agreed to the program, while the WJC retorted that the program was both late in coming and unacceptable on arrival.

The plans for the official events, which are being orchestrated by the office of President Lech Walesa, unsettled Jewish officials because they gave short

shrut to specifically Jewish concerns.

"We want to ensure Jewish content," said Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director. "It is inconceivable to us that Kaddish would be after the official ceremonies."

A newly revised program for the main ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau, issued late Monday, says separate prayers will be said by representatives of five religions.

Previous programs had referred only to a 10-12 minute "liturgy of the world," which organizing committee chairman Bohdan Rymaszewski claimed was never meant to be exclusively Roman Catholic.

"There has never been any doubt, and it has never been

MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

questioned, that the Jewish prayer will come first," Rymaszewski told The Associated Press in Warsaw. He said details would be worked out in meetings with representatives of the involved religions.

Rymaszewski also said he had never doubted "even for a second" that Wiesel would attend the commemorations.

Late Tuesday, the WJC announced that Wiesel would travel to Poland to represent the organization at the official ceremonies, and at a separate Jewish ceremony on January 26 in Birkenau.

That ceremony was added last week. "We have the right to weep alone," said Arnoldi

Mostowicz, a leader of the Jewish group that organized the service in Birkenau.

WJC officials attributed the problems plaguing the commemoration to "bureaucratic bungling" by Walesa's staff, not to ideological issues.

Also scheduled to speak on Friday are Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss and Maurice Goldstein, head of the Auschwitz Committee in Brussels.

Wiesel had complained earlier this month in a letter to Walesa that he had not been given sufficient notice to participate in ceremonies in Poland. Nor, he said, did he have adequate opportunity to write for the occasion.

"As for your suggestion that I

prepare a draft of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates' message," he wrote, "I am afraid that in this case also, it came too late."

In Budapest yesterday, ghetto

survivors and dignitaries braved sub-freezing temperatures to commemorate their liberation 50 years ago by the Red Army, as hundreds filled the Garden of Heroes of the main synagogue.

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Rabin likely to agree to talks on 'enlarged early empowerment' for PA

DAVID MAKOVSKY, JON IMMANUEL, and LAMIA LAHOUD

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is likely to agree to the start of negotiations on "enlarged early empowerment" for the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria in his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint this afternoon, Foreign Ministry officials said.

According to the officials, this could mean that more civilian powers would be transferred to the Palestinians even before an agreement on IDF redeployment away from Palestinian population centers is reached.

So far, in keeping with the Oslo Accord, Israel has handed over to the Palestinians authority for education, health, tourism, welfare, and taxation.

Officials believe high-level negotiations on the sticky issue of redeployment could last "months" and that they will be kept under a thick cloak of secrecy.

Redeployment in the territories must be based on the experiences of the Gaza-Jericho accord, said a PA official, who is

also a senior officer of the Palestinian Liberation Army.

He said the two sides must seriously work on a plan that guarantees free movement for all residents of the territories and coordination of the security forces regarding roads to be used by both sides.

He said joint patrols have been successful in Gaza and Jericho and may serve as model for the rest of the territories. An IDF source confirmed that Palestinian-Israeli joint patrols are regarded as a success.

Foreign Ministry officials also said Israel will release "several hundred" Palestinian prisoners in the coming weeks, to coincide with the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, which falls in February.

While Arafat insists Israel stop all settlement construction, he does not reject all land appropriations for roads, if it can be shown this would facilitate an Israeli mili-

tary withdrawal from Palestinian towns and villages, said Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

Kanafani told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that, "The issue is not roads, but building and expanding settlements. But we are very flexible on things that advance the peace process."

PA Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat supported Kanafani's statement concerning roads, saying roads are negotiable.

"If you want to talk about roads in the interim agreement, I think this should be negotiated. But we want negotiations, not diktats," he said.

On Tuesday anti-settlement demonstrations sponsored by the Palestinian Authority focused on bypass roads being built near Al-Bira at Psagot and near Hebron at Beir Haggai.

Ghassan Khatib, a leader of the People's

Party, said after the Al-Bira rally that bypass roads are unacceptable, because they "appropriate land and indicate the settlements are there to stay."

The Palestinians are also not happy with Israel's demand that the IDF be allowed to reenter evacuated areas when it decides security requires it.

Kanafani dismissed reports that most PA ministers wanted to suspend talks, but said that the settlement-construction issue "is putting all of us in a difficult position."

No one knows what the government's real voice is, despite Rabin's attempts at clarification, he said. He cited the public differences between Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, "who was very explicit in his plans."

On the 6,000 remaining Palestinian prisoners, Kanafani said, "The time for confidence-building measures is over. The agreement calls for the negotiated release of all of them."

Rabin-Arafat summit: The public is in the dark

BACKGROUND

DAVID MAKOVSKY

IF the past pattern of their meetings is any indication, today's summit meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will once again leave the public in the dark on the key issue of IDF redeployment in Judea and Samaria.

What is more likely is that the blanket of secrecy imposed during the 1993 Oslo negotiations will prevail. Both the Israeli and Palestinian publics will probably be confronted with a "done deal" that will leave little room for public debate.

The leaders on both sides insist this is justified, since they believe the alternative - what they term "fishbowl diplomacy" - plays into the hands of those Jews and Arabs seeking to thwart the deal.

After previous meetings, Rabin and Arafat have addressed reporters but never divulged anything about the issue of redeployment.

Instead, Arafat makes general remarks about the willingness of both sides to "overcome the obstacles," Rabin then adds that he is "committed to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles" reached in Oslo.

In fact, today may bring some variations. An announcement is expected regarding the release of some Palestinian prisoners. Rabin may also feel he must enunciate his policy regarding settlement expansion.

But what everyone really wants to know are the basic outlines of IDF redeployment. Will this occur in a corner of the territories, such as Jenin and Tul-karm, or will the redeployment occur throughout the territories, including the 400 Palestinian villages? Will the withdrawal be from 10 percent or 90 percent of the Palestinian populated areas?

There are plenty of rumors about the expected new landscape of the territories, but as long as nothing is stated publicly, there can be no public debate.

Questions about redeployment extend beyond the maps. There is a question of whether redeployment will occur at once or whether it will be phased in over an extended period of time, contingent upon Palestinian performance on security.

There is the equally crucial question of what rights the IDF will have following the redeployment. Will the model be the one in effect in Gaza and Jericho, which forbids the IDF from reentering the areas from which it has withdrawn, even in hot pursuit against perpetrators of violence or to preempt terror?

Exacerbating this problem is that Rabin believes he has little to offer the Israeli public in return for greater Palestinian control in the territories than before. This is in contrast to the Gaza/Jericho phase, when potential benefits were more obvious, such as being relieved of the violence-ridden Gaza Strip, improving our economic and diplomatic standing in the world, and the peace treaty with Jordan.

However, with the second phase potentially affecting more than 120,000 settlers and rumors persisting that politically wrenching decisions must be made regarding the dismantling of settlements, there seems to be no spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down.

But while there are still plenty of questions to ask Rabin and Arafat about the next phase of the peace accord, it is doubtful that meaningful answers will be offered today.

New flats sold in two settlements

HERB KEINON

FORTY-six new apartments have recently been completed in the Jordan Valley settlement of Ma'aleh Efrayim, and 22 have already been sold, local council head Haim Aviv said yesterday.

Aviv said there are currently 300 families in the settlement. According to Aviv, the new families are mostly young couples and immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The three-room apartments cost \$63,000.

"People are more worried about their economic condition than political uncertainty here," Aviv said.

The spotlight on building in Ma'aleh Efrayim is a far cry from last summer, when various Labor MKs and Peace Now spokesmen used it as an example of a settlement losing residents.

Meanwhile, Yossi Kapah, head of the Kedumim Local Council, said the infrastructure has recently been completed for 220 new apartments and about 180 of them have been sold. He said the construction of many of them began under the previous government, but the present government delayed hooking up the infrastructure "for various reasons."

Kapah said the apartments were released for sale after the government realized it would be too costly to compensate those who had already bought them, but were unable to move in.

After the Rabin government came to power in 1992 and clamped a freeze on government building in the territories, some 11,000 homes, already in fairly advanced stages of construction, were completed. But nearly 4,000 were not hooked up to the infrastructure or put up for sale. Over the last year, however, a number of them have been hooked up and put up for sale.

Murder suspect extradited from Jordan

JORDAN extradited Omar Fadil Saliman, 35, from Mashad near Nazareth, suspected of murdering his wife, Hazneh, to Israel yesterday.

Saliman, who was turned over to the Israel Police, is accused of stabbing his wife to death in their home last Thursday after a prolonged argument.

The two were married for 12 years. Saliman fled after the murder, and confessed and reenacted the crime after being extradited. Police became suspicious he had fled to Jordan after discovering a hole in the security fence near Ashdot Ya'acov on Friday, and footprints leading toward Jordan. He was arrested by the Jordanians and his shoes sent to Israel to see if they matched the tracks.

Police are to ask for an extension of his remand in Nazareth Magistrate's Court today.

(Itim)



Police Minister Moshe Shahal accepts an apple from a vendor at Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market yesterday.

Hefetz wants increased cooperation between Israeli, Palestinian police

BILL HUTMAN and LIAT COLLINS

POLICE Inspector-General Asaf Hefetz yesterday called for improved cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli police forces.

"There may have been some worsening [of relations] recently," Hefetz, reviewing Border Police operations in Gaza, said. But he cautioned that it would be "wrong to conclude that relations had totally broken down."

His comments came after leaks of reports by senior army and General Security Service officers on problems between the Palestinian and Israeli security forces to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

The problems "are being taken care of," Hefetz told reporters in Gaza. "Both sides are interested in maintaining good relations ... If we cannot cooperate, it will hurt both sides."

Border Police and police officers man the joint patrols with Palestinian police officers in

Gaza and Jericho. The Knesset committee was told that Israeli policemen no longer trust their Palestinian counterparts.

Hefetz, meanwhile, said the electronic security fence being built around Gaza has "cut the number of incursions to a minimum. But there are places where there is still no fence and in some places, even with a fence, there are still problems."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal also said "much is being done" to improve relations.

"Until now, [the joint patrols] have operated in an acceptable manner," Shahal said during a tour of Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market. "There has been some falling off recently," which is being dealt with, he added.

However, MK Benny Begin (Likud) claimed the security situation in Gaza is out of control. Huge numbers of armed Pal-

stinian policemen have entered Gaza and Jericho without their names being submitted to the government, and there is no list of their weapons' serial numbers, he said.

"The agreement with the PLO is collapsing before our eyes," he added.

On Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted there is no record for thousands of Palestinian Police officers.

In the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians were granted the right to establish a 9,000-member police force. The names of 5,800 were approved by Israel, but the names of the others were not submitted.

Begin said that, according to the PLO itself, there are now 11,000-13,000 Palestinian policemen. "We do not even know who or where these thousands of armed Palestinians are," he said. He refused to discuss the visit

by a subcommittee to Gaza last week, but did not deny statements reportedly aired at its meeting.

According to subcommittee members, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said the Palestinian Police is not coping with attacks against Israel, and OC Gaza Brig.-Gen. Doron Almog reportedly said: "Intelligence gathering is more difficult than in the past, therefore it is harder to catch wanted terrorists."

According to subcommittee member Moshe Peled, Almog said: "The Palestinian policemen drink coffee and play backgammon instead of acting against the terrorists."

Jon Immanuel adds: Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, dismissed Almog's allegations. "Why doesn't he pay more attention to his duties and let our officers take care of theirs?" he asked.

AMENDMENT

(Continued from Page One)

Despite the rebellion in its own ranks, however, the government was assured early on of a majority to defeat Dayan's amendment, after Shas promised to vote with the government and three of the four UTI MKs agreed to abstain.

In contrast to Shas, the vote of the Arab parties remained in doubt until the last minute. The Arabs opposed Dayan's amendment in principle, because it did not apply to Arab neighborhoods.

"The prime minister wants to meet with us before the vote," said Hashem Mahameed (Hadas) to Justice Minister David Liba'i outside the door of the plenum. "Do you understand how little respect this shows for us? That the prime minister wants to meet with us now, before the vote, when we have been requesting this for weeks [without success]?"

In the end, the Arabs decided to vote with the government on Dayan's amendment, but against the Economics Arrangement Law as a whole.

Palestinian dies in Jericho police custody; family says he was tortured

JON IMMANUEL

A Palestinian prisoner in Jericho died in police custody yesterday, apparently after having been tortured, his family said. The family of Salman Jalaita, 48, said they were called to Jericho Hospital and found him dead with cuts to his neck and hands.

Palestinian Preventive Security Service chief Jibril Rajoub de-

nied he was killed under interrogation and said an autopsy would determine cause of death.

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, headed by Hanan Ashrawi, opened an investigation into the death, the second in police custody since the beginning of Palestinian self-rule in May.

GREATER

(Continued from Page One) places like Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, or Be'er, he said. He maintained that the Shelves Report used the term Greater Jerusalem as an administrative expression, not a geographical definition.

Under the terms of the Meretz-Rabin agreement, the Palestinian Authority will have to be informed about the construction of new roads to settlements. Moreover, the construction of fences around settlements will need prior approval, and the fences must be adjacent to the residents' houses instead of demarcating the land which belong to the settlement.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni stressed that the four bypass roads whose construction will be allowed "were removed from the freezer only because Rabin said they are necessary for the redeployment of forces and for moving into the second phase of the peace agreement."

PA visits Haifa port

The Israeli-Palestinian committee involved in planning the construction of a port in Gaza visited Haifa Port Tuesday.

"If we are intent on peace then we must give up what are called state lands, and stop all construction in the settlements. Places like Ma'aleh Adumim are not and never were part of Jerusalem. We have lately been witness to a wild spate of construction in the occupied territories, based on the claim that they are really Jerusalem. Nothing is Jerusalem beyond what was so determined in 1967, and the city cannot be expanded." Liat Collins contributed to this report.

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DINA JOELSON

widow of Moshe Yehazkel 79
one of the founders of Beitar

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Mourning by:
Her daughter and son-in-law, Amira and David Leland
Her granddaughter, Mia and Nir Hacohen
and the entire family

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration should consult with Congress when deciding whether to dispatch US troops to the Golan Heights, Republican Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona said on Tuesday evening.

Kyl's remarks came following a briefing for five freshman senators on the Golan issue by a delegation led by Frank Gaffney, who heads a local think tank and opposes the introduction of US troops.

"There's going to have to be discussion in the Congress, and between Congress and the administration, about any US commitment to the peace settlement," Kyl, a member of the intelligence committee, told *The Jerusalem Post* after the briefing. "They've begun to understand that they need to talk with us."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher pledged last June, in a letter to then-armed services committee chairman Sam Nunn (a Democrat from Georgia), that the administration would weigh a Syrian-Israeli request for US troops "only after full consultation with Congress."

Tuesday's meeting was hosted by Sen. James Inhofe (Oklahoma) and also included Senators Rick Santorum (PA), Rod Grams (MN) and Mike DeWine (Ohio).

All those involved are Republicans; no Democratic challenger won a Senate seat in November's elections.

The senators made no commit-

ments on calling for open hearings on a US troop deployment. They also told the Gaffney group they remained open to hearing other points of view, it was learned here.

The administration is due to present an opposing view on the troop issue when peace team coordinator Dennis Ross appears before the senatorial group soon. Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich is also expected to meet the group separately.

Asked whether Congress should debate the merits of a US force prior to the conclusion of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement - something the administration and the Israeli Embassy vehemently oppose - Kyl said, "Sure, oh sure. The US government has to have a position established by all of the different groups that help establish US policy. That includes the Congress."

Aides said, however, that none of the senators intends to lead the way in calling for hearings on the feasibility of placing US troops on the Golan to monitor an Israeli-Syrian peace. The group has lobbied on the Golan issue this week with about 15 senators.

1501-1511

New bill will ease divorce

EVELYN GORDON

WOMEN who refuse to divorce their husbands will be dealt with differently than men who refuse to divorce their wives, the Knesset Law Committee decided yesterday.

The committee was discussing a bill to enable the rabbinical courts to impose sanctions on men who refuse to divorce their wives.

According to the bill, the courts would be able to prevent such a man from getting a passport, visa, or driver's license, opening a bank account or writing checks, leaving the country, finding a job in the civil service, army, police or local authorities, or practicing any profession requiring a license, such as law, medicine or accounting. If the

man were a convict, his privileges could be restricted.

Several MKs also want these sanctions extended to women who refuse to divorce their husbands, but all the female MKs, as well as the women's organizations, objected. Representatives of Na'amat and the Israel Women's Network even said they would rather not pass the law at all than impose the sanctions on women as well.

The women's organizations argued that because women have fewer rights than men with regard to divorce, women who refuse to divorce their husbands should be treated more leniently.

Though by Jewish law, both

men and women need their spouse's consent for a divorce, undivorced men are not penalized for living with another woman and raising a family, while undivorced women who lived with another man would have their children declared bastards.

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) insisted, however, this inequality is no reason for refusing to help those men whose wives will not divorce them. According to the rabbinate, there are some 50 men in this position, compared to about 400-500 women who cannot get a divorce.

Out of deference to the women's organizations Zucker agreed that different sanctions should be imposed, which the Justice Ministry is working on.

Dispute over access to baptisms

HAIM SHAPIRO and JON IMMANUEL

A DISPUTE between Israel and the PLO over responsibility for the Christian communities erupted yesterday over which route pilgrims should take on their way to the Jordan River.

Officials said some 3,000 Orthodox Christians visited the baptismal site at the river, which is in a closed military area, to mark the feast of Epiphany.

In previous years, the pilgrims traveled in a convoy of buses organized by the civil administration from its Jericho headquarters. This year, the administration told organizers to have the buses meet at the Almog junction on the Jericho bypass road.

But on Tuesday the Palestinian Authority published announcements in the Arabic press welcoming Christian pilgrims to the site via the Jericho route.

Under pressure from both sides, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I followed the route through Jericho (which Palestinians say was the route taken by Jesus and has been the route since 1982). His entourage included Ramsy Khoury, director of Yasser Arafat's bureau, representing the Palestinian Authority.

However, although the civil administration allowed the patri-

arch and his entourage through, it did not permit any of the buses to use the Jericho route.

Some came to the Almog junction, others entered Jericho and then left for the junction, while those insisting on going through Jericho were not allowed to pass. Passengers held a protest demonstration on the highway.

Palestinian Authority official Sach Erekat said 2,000 people were stopped on the road, while civil administration officials estimated those who were held back at a few hundred.

"We have an agreement to go three times a year under the Pal-

estian flag and this is the road used by the Israelis since 1982. Christ decided which road to use, not Israeli generals," Erekat said.

Shmuel Hamburger, coordinator of religious affairs for the civil administration, said the decision to use the bypass was taken for many reasons, including security.

It is impossible to say what route was used by Jesus, he said, and in any case the route itself is not part of the ceremony.

Yesterday's was not the first such dispute. Last fall the PLO announced the cancellation of a Roman Catholic ceremony after the Franciscans decided to use the Jericho bypass.

19 women soldiers hurt in Ayalon truck-bus crash

DAVID RUDGE

NINETEEN women soldiers were lightly hurt when a truck skidded on the wet Ayalon Highway yesterday morning and crashed into their bus.

The injured soldiers were taken to Ichilov Hospital. The accident blocked the road and caused long delays.

Police reiterated calls to motorists to keep a safe distance from other vehicles, especially in wet conditions, to brake carefully so as to avoid skidding, and to use headlights at all times.

The wintry weather, however, has brought smiles to the faces of staff at the Neveh Ativ ski site on Mt. Hermon, where the previous snowfalls from November and early last month had virtually disappeared.

"We now have more than 60 centimeters on the lower slopes and over a meter on the peak -

good, dry snow which is excellent for skiing," said site manager Eli Sagron.

"We intend to open tomorrow, although the forecast is for more snow; but according to the information we have, the conditions are expected to be good by the weekend," he said.

Nearly 30,000 people - half of them skiers - have visited the site since it opened on December 22. "This is a good sign that more and more Israelis are enjoying the ski slopes. I hope the weather will be favorable to us this time and the site will remain open until the season ends at the end of March," Sagron added.

The forecast is for the rain to die out today, although it is expected to remain cold with an outside chance of more rain in the North and snow on Mt. Hermon on Saturday.



Dmitri Berman, the yeshiva security guard who shot and killed an Arab delivery man on Monday, is flanked by two policemen as he is led to Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. His remand was extended for 15 days. (Isaac Harari)

Pogim to be used for teaching children values

BATSHEVA TSUR

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" appears to be the guiding spirit behind the Education Ministry's decision to consider using the popular children's game, Pogim, to inculcate values.

"We have to learn to use Pogim wisely, as the haredi population has done, to get across educational themes," Deputy Minister Micha Goldman said yesterday. Pogim have come under fire from educators who see them as being non-educational.

Goldman said that subjects such as road safety and the dangers of drug abuse could be taught in pictorial form on Pogim. Another topic which can be

taught in this fashion is the need to absorb immigrant pupils, he said.

"The haredi population [which put out its own series of religiously oriented Pogim] caught on to the benefits of the game and we should learn from them," he noted.

There is difficulty in inculcating certain values, he said, because the pupils see this as "moralizing," but through the popular Pogim characters it could be fun learning such themes. "These positive messages can help us to build a healthier society and in an enjoyable fashion," Goldman said.



Uri Ofer explains his resignation yesterday. (Shaul Rahamim)

Opera, arts center head Ofer explains decision to quit

HELEN KAYE

"I THOUGHT it better to resign before total distrust set in," Uri Ofer said yesterday at a press conference called to explain his resignation as general manager of both the New Israeli Opera and the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts (TAPAC).

Ofer said his resignation was motivated by the lack of confidence in his management expressed by the Tel Aviv City Council. But, he added, Mayor Ronni Milo backed him to the hilt, despite his conviction that the NIO and TAPAC should have separate managements.

It was over this issue, he stressed, and not the recent Segalson report, that he thought it best to resign. The council had commissioned Judge Arye Segalson to investigate TAPAC's management, and his interim report

allegedly points the finger at Ofer for breaches of good management and fiscal practices.

Ofer defended TAPAC against critics of the acoustics, sight lines in the auditorium, and other malfunctions, saying these problems are being addressed.

Ofer's resignation will take effect on April 26 unless, as NIO deputy general manager Hannah Mumit hopes, "we can persuade Milo to get him to stay for another year. It is ridiculous to change managers at this stage. We've only been up and running for three months and are still at a transitional stage."

The NIO staff has been circulating petitions at performances, asking the public to write to Milo in support of Ofer, who says this was done without his knowledge and that he will put a stop to it.

Underworld figure Aslan recovering from wounds

RAINE MARCUS

ILAN Aslan, shot late Tuesday night as he was entering a Tel Aviv saunter hall, is recovering from his wounds in Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, which yesterday reported his condition as stable.

Police denied theories the shooting is connected with last Saturday's attempted murder of Moshe Alperon, who was seriously wounded when a bomb exploded in his car.

"All these underworld charac-

ters are exposed to attacks," said a police officer. "But these two are not in the same league."

Police sources said Aslan, whose gangster brother Yehzekel was murdered two years ago, is a known drug user and tried to continue his brother's business ventures. Eyewitnesses said he was shot by one gunman, who fled in a car driven by another man.

Police are waiting until he recovers so they can question him.

Motorist wins photo finish decision at red light

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE camera doesn't lie, but it may not be telling the entire truth, at least when it records drivers going through red lights, according to a decision by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Judge David Bar-Ophir affirmed the decision of Traffic Court Judge Yitzhak Gerty that the camera could not prove beyond a doubt that the car in the photograph had actually gone through a red light.

Until now, such photographs have been accepted almost automatically in court, with an accompanying fine and automatic two months' suspended revocation of license for a two-year period.

The defendant, Assaf Alkoni, a law graduate serving his apprenticeship, had argued that, although there were two photographs of his car in the intersection when the light was red, this did not prove he had entered the intersection when the light was already red.

Holon youth visit ill Jordanian girl

JUDY SIEGEL

BRINGING a Barbie doll, a basket of Tu B'Shvat fruits, and hand-written greetings in English, Holon schoolchildren this week went to cheer up a Jordanian girl being treated here for cancer in her arm.

Dana Gawi, 8, was brought to Rishon LeZion's private American Medical Center a few weeks ago. She is now undergoing chemotherapy treatments, which could take as long as eight months.

After reading about Dana in the papers, youngsters from the Navon Junior High School decided to write letters as part of the class's "peace project," and sent a delegation to her in the hospital. Accompanied by English teacher Nili Hazan, they went to the medical center to boost her spirits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rope in pita costs baker NIS 1,500
A Beersheba baker, in one of whose pitot a piece of rope was found, was fined NIS 1,500 by Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday. The baker, Moshe Cohen, blamed one of his employees. *litm*

Ilan Bastikar's remains buried
The remains of Ilan Bastikar were buried in the Beersheba Military Cemetery yesterday, 16 months after he was murdered. His killers had placed the body in a garbage dumpster, and it was discovered Tuesday in the city's Duda'im garbage dump. *Amir Rozenblit*

Reuma Weizman, Queen Noor to be cited
Reuma Weizman and Queen Noor of Jordan will be awarded the peace prize of the Seeds of Peace organization at a ceremony in New York in March. Seeds of Peace last summer organized a camp for youth from Israel, the territories, Jordan, and Morocco. The children were received by President Bill Clinton at the White House.

Youth indicted for psychologist's murder
The Acre youth held for stabbing psychologist Eliezer Levy to death last December was indicted for his murder yesterday by Haifa District Court.

Levy was stabbed five times by the youth after the pair, who had an ongoing homosexual relationship, had sex together, the prosecution said. The suspect then stole a stereo, other electronic equipment, and Levy's car, which he drove for several days before torching it. *litm*

Woman's body found on Haifa beach
The body of an unidentified woman about 70 years old washed up on Haifa's Bat Galim Beach yesterday.

The woman was dressed in a gray body suit and a green vest, but she carried no identification. Police found a phone number in a pocket and are trying to use that information to identify her. *litm*

Telephone cuts prices 10%
Pelephone announced yesterday it is passing savings, resulting from a tax break, along to the consumer, and is reducing prices of its phones by 10 percent. Pelephone also reduced waiting time on orders to 60 days, from 120. Per minute user rates remain at 67 agorot during peak hours and 34 agorot during off hours.

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ace of hearts, nine of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

52 to seek Artur Rubinstein Prize

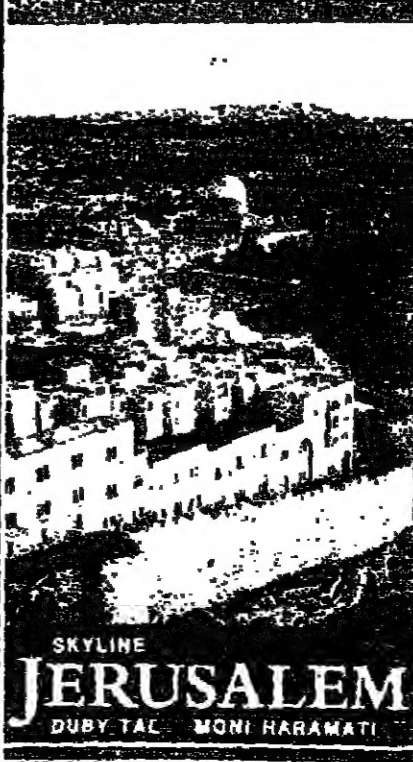
HELEN KAYE

FIFTY-two competitors from 22 nations, the largest number ever, will participate in the eighth triennial Artur Rubinstein International Piano Master competition from March 26 to April 12.

The international panel of 11 jurors includes Israeli composer Andre Hajdu, Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki, and pianist Guangren Zhou from China. Jury chairman and music adviser to the competition is Arye Vardi.

The competitors were drawn from a short list of 180 contestants culled from more than 900 applicants from 48 nations. The first prize Artur Rubinstein Award is a gold medal and \$10,000, with 2nd and 3rd prizes of \$5,000 and \$3,000.

This year, for the first time, contestants can choose their own repertoire, except for one of two Israeli compositions especially commissioned from Zvi Avni and Mark Kopytman. The competition will open with a benefit recital by 1994 US Pianist of the Year Yevgeny Kissin.



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Defiant Chechens push Russians back

GROZNY (AP) — Chechen rebels forced government troops back in the city center Wednesday and were close to wiping out all the gains made by the Russian army in two weeks of bitter fighting.

Chances of a cease-fire appeared slim despite earlier Russian peace overtures. President Boris Yeltsin used tough language, ruling out talks with the rebel government, and Chechen fighters said they would never lay down their arms.

Russian artillery and rockets pounded the center of Grozny to hold back the Chechen forces. Sukhoi fighter jets flying in pairs screamed over the city, rocketing buildings, and a Tupolev heavy bomber was seen flying back from a mission.

But the Chechens had clearly taken the train station and were fighting for the market, which the Russians had used as a base for attacks on the presidential palace, symbol of Chechnya's independence drive. The Russian army captured the railway station at the beginning of January.

A few hundred Chechens have fought one of the world's most powerful armies to a standstill in the center of Grozny. The army's overwhelming superiority in men and weapons has been blunted by the Chechens' courage and skill.

The Russian government reported some progress Wednesday, saying its armies had managed to link up and encircle the

presidential palace overnight.

Chechen representatives had said after talks with Russia's prime minister in Moscow on Tuesday that both sides agreed to stop using heavy artillery by Wednesday evening as a first step toward a full cease-fire. But the Russian army was depending on artillery to hold its positions in Grozny and there was no sign of any letup.

At a Kremlin meeting Wednesday, Yeltsin said talks with Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev were out of the question.

"We do not want to hold direct talks with Dudayev because he carried out genocide against his own people," Yeltsin said at an awards ceremony for journalists.

He added, however, that his government was prepared to talk to field commanders, clan leaders and representatives of local governments in Chechnya.

"Don't worry, everything will be settled soon on the Chechen issue. I am in strict control of the Russian security structures and know the situation every day," said Yeltsin, who has kept a low profile throughout the conflict.

"Without me, nothing serious goes on in Chechnya."

Chechen fighters said they would welcome peace but will not give up their claim to Chechen independence. They were convinced they had the Russians on the defensive and that the battle was going their way.

UN condemns cease-fire breach in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — United Nations peacekeepers said yesterday a Sarajevo boy was badly wounded by a Serb sniper while sledding in the snowbound capital and said it was a serious breach of Bosnia's New Year truce.

"It's a cease-fire violation and the most serious incident of that nature we have had in quite some time," UN spokesman Paul Risley told a news conference. "We strongly deplore it."

Fifteen-year old Srđan Baljovic was hit while sledding with friends in a western suburb. The boy suffered serious injuries to his leg.

The sniping incident dealt another blow to the cease-fire accord which has frayed in recent days with both sides accusing each other of bad faith.

Fighting in the northwest Bihac pocket and a Serb advance on the Srebrenica enclave have been the most notable strains on the truce agreed on New Year's Eve be-

tween Bosnia's Moslem-led government and Bosnian Serbs.

But both sides have stalled on carrying out promises made in the UN-brokered agreement.

Peacekeepers had been encouraged after a helicopter reconnaissance on Tuesday that Bosnian army troops had withdrawn as promised from a demilitarized zone west of Sarajevo.

But a French UN ground patrol spotted 80 armed government soldiers moving through the DMZ just after dark. "French battalion soldiers tried to stop these soldiers but despite warnings they continued southwards," said UN military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward.

"So the clearance of the DMZ, which appeared to have been completed in the early afternoon, (has been) placed in serious doubt," Coward said.

The Bosnian Serbs have failed to open up routes into Sarajevo for civilian traffic as promised.

News agencies

KOBE — AT least 3,031 people were killed, 869 were missing and 14,572 injured after Tuesday's giant earthquake in central Japan, a spokesman for the National Police Agency said late last night.

The earthquake, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, was the biggest to hit central Japan in half a century.

In a dramatic exodus, hundreds of thousands of people fled this port city yesterday, a day after it was ravaged by the destructive earthquake and raging flames.

Kobe residents searched the city's buckled streets for food and water or huddled from the winter in emergency centers as they struggled with the quake's aftermath.

Around 400,000 homes were still without electricity, and the worst-hit part of the city was left in darkness after night fell. The only signs of life were the floodlights of firefighters still battling flames more than 36 hours after the quake struck.

Even after dark, rescue workers battled to recover more bodies. Many were still in the beds or futons that they had been sleeping in when the quake struck at 5:46 a.m. on Tuesday.

On foot, by bicycle, in shared cars, residents packed the main road out of town. Some were limping, in bandages, looking like war refugees as they picked their way past collapsed buildings and piles of rubble.

Makoto Hiroiama was sending his wife, mother and child out of town to stay with relatives.

"It's dangerous here, and there's no water," he said. "It's no place for my elderly mother and my child."

In the quake zone, life in a high-tech country was suddenly reduced to the most basic and primitive level. Telephone service, power, gas and train service were still largely knocked out.

In Kobe, which had been a thriving and cosmopolitan city of 1.4 million, people huddled around campfires and caught water dripping from broken pipes.

"Downtown Kobe looks like Godzilla went through it," said Kobe native John Lin, a 28-year-old physicist raised in the United States.

Hundreds of aftershocks have rattled the region. Fear of more building collapses spurred many to spend the night in the open, huddled in blankets. More than 120,000 people sought shelter Tuesday night.

Police said there was no looting.

The quake triggered hundreds of fires, many of them burning out of control into early yesterday. By afternoon, the wind-whipped flames had died — not so much from being extinguished as from burning themselves out.

White smoke rose from the rubble. One central area,

Residents flee Kobe as quake toll tops 3,000



A woman sits among the rubble of her house in Kobe yesterday, a day after a massive earthquake devastated the city.

stretching for kilometers, has been turned to a giant gray-and-brown field with blackened, ruined structures poking through blackened.

Throughout the city, the sound of hissing could be heard as gas leaked from ruptured pipes. Although most of the fires had burned themselves out, the leaking gas still posed the threat of explosion or fire.

In Kobe's Suma district, 70,000 people were evacuated yesterday after gas leaked from

cracked tanks at a nearby industrial area.

While the city center was shattered, parts of Kobe suffered far less damage. One hillside district, scene of tourist attractions including historic landmark homes and some embassies, was almost unaffected.

At shelters, people blinked in the sooty daylight, waiting for food to be delivered. A few wandered the rubble, poking at still-smoking ruins of their former homes.

"I'm helpless. All I can do is sit around the fire like this and wait," said a middle-aged man resting at an elementary school turned shelter. "All I have now are water and blankets. But at least I'm alive."

At the shelters, supplies were short, and only a few stores were open.

"I've been waiting for more than an hour. I'm trying to get something to drink," one man told Japanese TV as he queued up with hundreds of others outside a convenience store.

The government's rescue effort gathered momentum yesterday, a full day after the quake. The military said 2,000 troops, including medics and engineers, had arrived in the quake zone. Nearly 50 aircraft, including three dozen helicopters, were ferrying supplies to survivors.

However, there was growing criticism over the slow start in helping the earthquake victims. "Quake Reveals Shortcoming Of Disaster Services," said a headline in the English-language Japan Times.

Kobe residents said the lack of preparation made it hard to cope with the disaster.

Balladur to run for French presidency

PARIS (Reuters) — Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur declared his long-awaited candidacy for France's April-May presidential election yesterday, opening the campaign in earnest with a message of economic optimism.

Balladur, 65, runaway favorite in opinion polls, said in a presidential-style broadcast that his centre-right government had set France on the road to recovery and he wanted to lead it into the 21st century.

After 21 months in government, he said, "Our country is starting to recover. It is moving forward again."

Socialist leader Henri Emmanuelli later announced he would seek his party's nomination to combat "resignation and social regression." Despite the withdrawal of the Left's most popular candidate, European Commission President Jacques Delors, he said he believed a Socialist could still win.

Emmanuelli's bid raised the prospect of a bitter battle among three would-be heirs to the mantle of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who retires in May after 14 years in power.

Balladur, an uneasy campaigner, read his statement entitled "Believing in France" in a nervous, melancholy tone.

"My candidacy is to prepare France to enter the next century with all its strength, prosperous, just and influential, in order to restore hope," he said.

France must be "the motor of European progress, which is indispensable to its future" and "the best servant of peace."

He made no mention of the 10 other candidates already in the race, including his longtime political mentor, fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac. But he said he hoped the campaign would be "positive, calm and optimistic."

Placing himself above party politics, he said his aim was to unite and reconcile the French people. "We must reform, but without fractures or ruptures, by convincing people and earning their support through dialogue with all," he said.

The latest opinion poll showed 70 percent of voters believe Balladur will win the two-round election on April 23 and May 7.

Oldsmobile Cutlass most stolen in US

DETROIT (AP) — Car buyers may prefer the Ford Taurus, but North American car thieves grab for the more expansive comforts of a Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme.

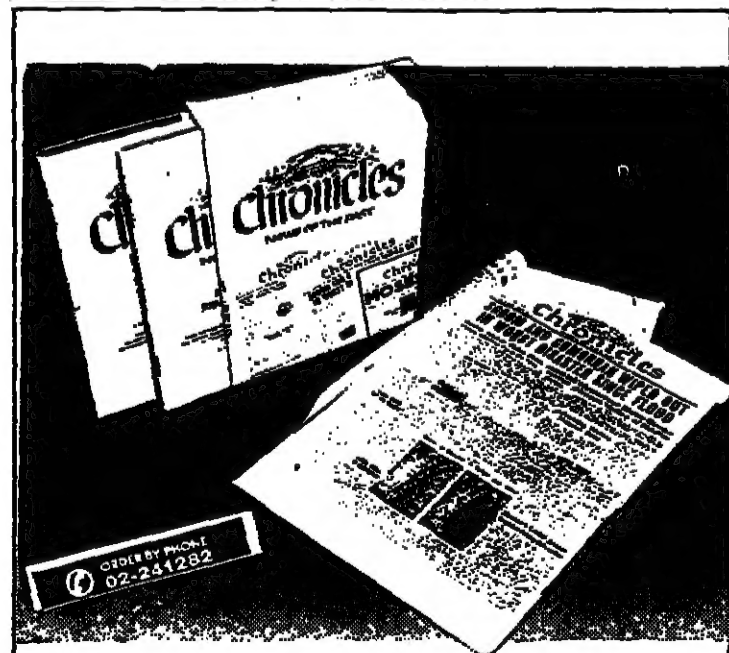
For the third time in as many years, the 1984 Cutlass Supreme finished first in US insurers' records of auto thefts. And the Olds' maker, General Motors Corp., had 56 of the 100 most stolen cars last year.

"The cars that are most often stolen are not only very popular with consumers but readily sought after by car thieves as well," said Bill Geen of CCC Information Services, which compiled the figures.

No. 2 on the most-stolen list was the Chrysler Corp.'s 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4.

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Telephone 315666, Telex 20121, Fax 389527, CIRCULATION - 315610, Fax 389017, ADVERTISING - 315608, 315637-40, Fax 388408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 6390333, Fax 6390377, HAIFA: 19 Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 627124, Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1994, Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE 1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS

Japan's days of mourning

THE earthquake that has struck Japan — the country's worst disaster in 50 years — rightly attracted universal shock and sympathy for the victims as the death toll passed 3,000 yesterday. The awesome power unleashed by natural disasters is always accompanied by a feeling of helplessness, and it seems the best-laid plans remain inadequate to guard against such tragedies.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir's offer to Japan of the IDF's highly experienced rescue unit, which has dogs trained to locate survivors buried under rubble, was swift and appropriate. Beyond such concerned gestures there is little the rest of the world can do to help this highly advanced country cope with its days of national mourning.

Beyond the emotional impact of such an earthquake in a heavily populated First World country, the destruction raises again the question of just what can be done to protect population centers against quakes. Many humbled experts have appeared on several television channels recently with the gloomy message that the whole subject of earthquake planning may have to be rethought, after a century of research and billions of dollars invested in special engineering.

Most depressing for the scientists was the sight of the Kobe elevated super-highway turned completely on its side. There are few countries more technically competent than Japan and probably only California has put as

much effort into earthquake research and construction design. The Kobe highway had been stamped with approval as incorporating some of the most advanced ideas and techniques in research-based engineering for resisting earth tremors.

The Japanese had studied similar collapses in San Francisco and Los Angeles and were sure they had come up with the strongest, most quake-resistant structures possible. As in America, Japanese elevated highways and railways are now supported by columns containing hundreds of shock-absorbing rods and side-sway protecting hoops. A top Japanese engineering professor at Toyo University was probably being too hard on his profession when he lamented emotionally yesterday: "We could have done better, they could have been stronger."

No suggestion of negligence or corner-cutting is likely to be raised in Japan, where these matters are taken extremely seriously by all concerned. Japan's construction laws are by far the world's strictest. For comparison, the designed strength of Los Angeles expressways is one-third of their Japanese counterparts — and no one would accuse Californians of not taking earthquakes seriously.

It may be little comfort to the tens of thousands of bereaved and injured and the hundreds of thousands of homeless in Japan today, but one can only hope that in the long term the tragedy will spur some new ideas in man's unending battle with nature's might.

Democracy bombarded

IF the destruction in Kobe by nature's random force generates helpless sympathy, the images of man's viciousness pouring out of Grozny can only leave the average person seething with anger. Week after week, the world's television viewers have watched a large city been taken apart and reduced to uninhabitable rubble by Russian bombing and shelling that has been mindless in its objectives and disgraceful in its callousness.

President Boris Yeltsin launched his Christmas war supposedly to subdue an undemocratic secessionist regime leading a gaggle of assorted bandits and petty mafia gangs. He sent the army into Chechnya on what he assured the world would be a short, sharp policing operation. A few military strikes on the rebels' heavy artillery, some clashes with their armed units were to be expected of course, but the president was assured of international support in putting down Chechnya's unreasonable attempt to force the breakup of the Russian Federation.

Media commentators joined foreign ministers in agreeing almost unanimously that the last thing the world needed was a People's Islamic Republic of Chechnya foisted upon it by the bunch of dubious characters claiming control of the province. It was, they agreed, almost another Haiti situation — only more ridiculous, for at least Haiti is an accepted sovereign state.

Yet, instead of the softly-softly Haiti-style pacification Yeltsin promised, what his forces have delivered is a bloodbath more worthy of

some vicious dictatorship than a new member of the world's respected major democracies. Before the eyes of the world, the supposedly disunited Chechen bandits and petty criminals have emerged as a nation of incredibly courageous fighters. Against overwhelming odds they have fought inch by inch for their homeland, while treating their captured Russian prisoners with respect for the international conventions of war.

In short, the bad guy-good guy labels beloved of news reporters have reversed dramatically. Moscow's total disregard for the 100,000 civilians of Grozny as it tried indiscriminately to pound the Chechens into submission is an atrocity that will not soon be forgotten. Nor will Yeltsin's endless empty statements that air bombardments would halt, that a cease-fire would be enforced.

Fighter-bombers yesterday continued to streak over Grozny in support of the continuous artillery blitz on the ravaged capital. Whether Yeltsin's false statements have been well-intentioned utterances from a lame-duck president or deliberate disinformation is not yet clear. One thing is certain — his store of credibility in the West is virtually exhausted.

When Grozny finally falls, the battle will be far from over. As the ranks of the fallen soldiers' mothers swell in the protest vigil outside the Kremlin, the future for Russia's present government looks almost as bleak as the streets of Grozny.

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OPINION



Behind the smoke screen

SO what really happened at that mysterious summit meeting in Alexandria last month between the rulers of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia? It was a meeting which prompted Prime Minister Rabin, in a moment of somber reflection, to warn the Israeli public that it should be prepared for the possibility of war in either the medium or long term.

True, the Foreign Ministry is busy spreading optimistic reports of efforts to "improve relations" with President Mubarak. It looks like a panicky effort to muffle what Middle East analysts in London told us earlier this week sounded "ominously like the drums of war beating out a tattoo in the shadow of the Sphinx."

The Foreign Ministry is indulging in obsequious appeasement, ignoring previous demands that Mubarak come and talk to Rabin officially in Jerusalem, and making pie-in-the-sky suggestions that the two leaders could meet in Tabá or some other desert nook or cranny, like shadows in the night.

The London analysts dismiss the Foreign Ministry's "please Mr. Mubarak, be nice to us" approach as living "in cloud cuckoo land." This view is shared by two senior Israeli intelligence men we spoke to, who have never forgotten the harsh lessons of the Yom Kippur war.

Both in Europe and Jerusalem, hard-headed realists are focusing on the carefully orchestrated Egyptian crescendo of verbal beligerence aimed at Israel.

Last Friday at the Cairo Book Fair (to which Israel wasn't invited), Osama El-Baz, Mubarak's right hand-man, said that Jerusalem couldn't be trusted, and that "preventive measures should be taken." He didn't elaborate. Hammering home the point, Egyptian Defense Minister Hussein Tantawi said Israel's nuclear weapons capacity was endangering Middle East peace. Piped up Syria: The summit in Alexandria was one of the most momentous in the last 50 years of Arab history.

It's no secret that Mubarak is furious with Israel for making peace with King Hussein first, instead of handing over the Golan Heights to Syria's President Assad. His comment that Rabin is ignoring Syria, "which is like the US" but instead "deals with Jordan — a distant place, like Djibouti for instance," was a double in-

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

sult to Jordan and Israel, to say the least.

It isn't lost on those with long memories that Mubarak's vitriolic attacks against Israel are getting to sound more and more like those of Gamal Abdul Nasser, even long before the Six Day War.

The clue to what is really in the minds of Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Syrian leaders is buried in the ceaseless demands that Israel sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, up for renewal this spring.

Mubarak is realistic enough to know that Israel would be signing its own death warrant. By keeping the Arabs guessing about the

The drums of war are beating an ominous tattoo in the shadow of the Sphinx

true nature of its nuclear potential, Israel is making them think again before launching another all-out war against the Jewish state.

BOTH ISRAELI and European intelligence experts agree that the trio who met in Alexandria came to a firm decision to create their own independent nuclear weapon systems. Masking their plans behind a smoke screen, pointing Israel as a nuclear monster prepared at any time to unleash its weapons of mass destruction at its peace-loving Arab neighbors, they can always justify their actions in terms of self-protection.

Our British and Israeli intelligence contacts told us that this joint Arab long-term nuclear project is to be financed by Saudi Arabia, with Egyptian engineers and nuclear experts creating the deadly arsenal. Syria will throw in the technical know-how it has long been secretly accumulating. This nuclear plan isn't only aimed at the Jewish state. It solves another problem of growing concern to the leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia: the rapidly growing tide of fundamentalism sweeping their countries. They know that as soon as the present French-backed Algerian

regime is overthrown — and that is only a matter of time — they are likely to meet the same fate.

Becoming nuclear powers could save them. These Moslem leaders could hold their heads up high as true warriors of Allah — and possibly succeed in clinging to power.

If Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia achieve the macho nuclear status they seek, will they launch an all-out war on Israel?

"They are more intelligent than that," a British Middle East intelligence specialist told us, adding that once these countries get nuclear weapons, Israel's deterrent capacity will no longer exist. Israel will be at their mercy.

"In Baghdad in 1981, Israel showed the Arabs how to handle an enemy who builds nuclear weapons. They know that Dimona is at the heart of Israel's nuclear enterprise. All they need are rockets and planes and — hey presto! — no more reactors. It's all over in seconds. They won't have to get involved in a long, messy war."

Using one pretext or another, it would be no problem for Egypt to station its modern US-supplied warplanes — similar to the ones used by Israel — on Saudi Arabian airfields. From there it's a mere three minutes or so flying time to streak across the desert and wipe out Dimona, particularly if the planes traverse Jordanian skies.

An alternative method, or possibly simultaneously with an air attack, would be the launching of Syrian Scuds, which today can reach every part of Israel. All the better if Israel gives away the Golan Heights, as Rabin has said he will. This will make it easier for Assad's missile battery commanders to focus on the Negev.

"Why else would the Egyptians be hammering away day after day at Israel for refusing to sign the NPT?" the same source asked us. "It's never been an issue before. After all, they have known about Dimona for many years. It's a decoy, nothing else. Certainly Yitzhak Rabin realizes the danger."

So do other army and intelligence veterans who were caught with their pants down by the Yom Kippur War. With one unemerging difference. The stakes today are very much higher.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Snuff movies

HAIM KREISEL

ON January 9, the TV talk show *Popolitica* turned its attention to snuff movies, in which people are tortured and killed in "real time."

How should one react to this kind of thing? Surely silence is preferable even to condemnation. Too many of us share a macabre fascination with evil, and where our basest instincts are concerned, it's preferable to let sleeping dogs lie.

The tragic result of all the publicity will be an increased demand for such movies. Far worse, some Israelis may feel the urge to produce them themselves.

Two well-known Israeli philosophers, Adi Tzemah and Yosef Agassi, were invited to the program, and I thought that if the subject had to be discussed publicly, it would be refreshing to hear it discussed intelligently.

My embarrassment at what followed quickly gave way to outrage.

To summarize the philosophers' position, morality and esthetics are two disparate areas, and never the twain shall meet.

Nothing can justify 'real-time' killing as entertainment

While both philosophers condemned those who made snuff movies, both saw a possible esthetic value in these movies.

They appeared to be recommending that we judge them on esthetic grounds, much as some people used to watch gladiator shows. Woe to the society whose wise men think along such lines.

AS A JEW, I could respond that it is morality that distinguishes our heritage from the heritage of Athens and Rome. Morality, not beauty, is our overriding concern.

We may not always agree on what is moral (and this is true even within the more narrow confines of Orthodox Judaism), and we may at times act in ways that are immoral.

Nevertheless, morality defines our scale of values as a people. Only the "Hellenists" among us could look for any "redeeming" value in acts of murder done to feed people's depravity.

Judaism is guided by the principle that God chooses the good because it is good, and humans imitate divine activity by following this path.

My sense of outrage against those who would seek the esthetic in murder springs not only from my Jewish heritage, but my philosophical one. I was seized by a desire to restore some honor to philosophy.

Neither Plato, Aristotle, nor their medieval heirs accepted the dichotomy between goodness and beauty. To put it succinctly, what is good is beautiful, and what is bad is also ugly. Morality and esthetics may be two different realms; but ultimately, they must unite and become one.

Alfarabi, the great 10th-century Islamic philosopher, illustrates the point.

He defines the "beautiful" (*jamil*) as those voluntary activities that contribute to human perfection and felicity.

"If the means discovered are the most useful for a virtuous end," he writes in *The Attainment of Happiness*, "then they are noble and beautiful. If the ends are evil, then the means discovered by deliberation are also evil, base and ugly (*qabih*)."

Maimonides's *Shmona Pera-kim* ("Eight Chapters") describes the health and the sickness of the soul, following the path laid down by Aristotle and Alfarabi.

A healthy soul is one whose traits prompt the individual to perform acts that are good, pleasant and beautiful, while a diseased soul is one whose traits lead to the performance of deeds that are evil, harmful and ugly.

Maimonides approaches the commandments of the Torah as the means for bringing about the ultimate perfection of the soul.

Goodness and beauty in the realm of human activity are inseparable. Both ultimately must serve the cause of truth.

Snuff movies, and the people who make them, are evil, harmful and ugly.

The writer is a senior lecturer in Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SUFFERING OF WOMEN

Sir, — I was deeply touched by an extraordinary story which I read in your issue of January 6. "Last address unknown" hit me very hard because I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors and also because I have long harbored the belief that the suffering Jewish woman has not been given adequate attention by Holocaust scholars.

Only recently has it been brought to light that women really had a far less likely chance of survival because they remained attached to their children. The lists which the author of the article found in the archives bear witness to that.

My own mother was tragically forced to separate herself from one of her children. It was an act which ultimately saved her life and that of her older child. But the trauma and devastation remain for all time.

TAMAR LEVY
Jerusalem.

STOCK-EXCHANGE TAX
Sir, — By the simple expedient of making the capital gains tax on the stock exchange retroactive by 12 months, i.e., to January 1, 1994, the Finance Ministry could both revive the moribund stock exchange and make it a source of future taxes.

The retroactive arrangement would allow those who lost on the exchange due to its collapse in 1994 to deduct their losses from their other tax payments. This might hurt the government in the short run, but in the long run it would revive considerable faith in the exchange and thus provide the government with an income in the future.

MACABEE DEAN
Ramat Gan.

BANAL DIATRIBE

Sir, — Why does an intelligent journal like yours give space to Teddy Kollek's shopworn clichés? The only banality missing from Teddy Kollek's latest banal anti-religious diatribe (*Post*, January 13) is the phrase, "religion is the opiate of the masses."

Teddy complains about the emptiness and pomposity of religious rituals at funerals. But throughout the years we have heard more pompous and empty speeches at more pompous and empty ceremonies form more pompous and empty old kibbutzniks, mouthing empty "ideals" that have been shown to be bankrupt in less than 50 years, than ever any rabbi could have made.

Sadly, Teddy's latest screed calls to mind the mock gravestone which reads: "Here Lies John Smith, Atheist — All Dressed Up, With No Place To Go."

ESTELLE FELDMAN
Jerusalem.

"OLEG"

Sir, — Since I came to Israel (Palestine at the time), I have been reading *The Palestine* and later *Jerusalem Post*. Although the paper isn't the same the last few years, I continue reading it.

But I feel that I must protest against the slanderous caricatures that you publish. I wonder if Oleg would have been so brave in his previous homeland and what his fate there would have been.

HETTY MAHLER
Oleg would not have been as "brave" in his previous homeland, which is one of the reasons he is here and why we publish him. — Ed.
J.P.

HENRY JACKSON SQUARE

Sir, — Your article of January 11, "Square dedicated in memory of Henry Jackson," failed to point out one important factor: the square dedicated is a small and probably unnoticed site by most. The decision to choose this site is a disgrace to the memory of Senator Henry M. Jackson. Senator Jackson's contribution to the Jewish People and the plight of Soviet Jewry is perhaps one of the most important facets of contemporary Jewish history. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment will probably be recorded in history as the primary force in the downfall of the evil Soviet Empire and the eventual freedom of Soviet Jews.

I think his memory deserves more than a small rock on the corner of Jabotinsky and Yitzhak Elhanan streets. Shame!

ELIE C. WURTMAN
Jerusalem.

Sir, — As one of the participants at the International Commemorative Conference on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and the Struggle for Human Rights, I would like to comment on the mini-square dedicated to Jackson's memory. True, in daylight one does not really need a microscope to see the place. However, the dedication of the micro-square is unbelievably shabby and a macro-shame for Israel and the Jews. Nothing would have been more. This Noble Gentle deserves at least a main square or street in Jerusalem and in all other Israeli cities and all other honors which Israel can possibly grant.

DANIEL IZCHAK KATZ
Beit Zayit.

POSTSCRIPT

ROMANCE IS to remain alive and well in a rural English village called Lover.

The Post Office overturned a decision made last year to stop hand-franking Valentine's Day cards in Lover after a barrage of complaints from all over the world.

"We are really pleased," said village postmistress Lynda Cooper who was preparing for the sackfuls of cards which arrive before February 14. "Although I have to stamp all the cards myself and by hand it is a wonderful service," she said.

Outcry over the Post Office's original decision was intensified when it emerged the cards were to be diverted to a nearby sorting office with the unromantic name of Slough.

CURSING IN a small New Jersey town could now cost a resident a hefty fine and a spell in jail if lawmakers get their way.

The borough council of the town of Raritan, population 5,000, determined to purge bad language and behavior, banned

cursing, rudeness and other disorderly conduct by passing a new ordinance.

But not everyone is happy about the effort to keep the town squeaky clean, including Raritan Police Chief Joseph Sterna who said, "I will not use my officers to enforce such a silly law. It is a waste of time."

The American Civil Liberties Union is threatening a legal challenge against the ordinance, claiming that it violates constitutional rights of people to swear if they want to.

The newly passed law, which amends a 1964 "peace and good order" ordinance, outlaws engaging in "noisy, rude or indecent behavior" or using "profane, vulgar or indecent language." A violation carries a penalty of up to \$500 and 90 days in jail.

IS RUSSIFICATION taking over Israel? Reader Peppi Weiss of Tel Aviv ran into a problem she never thought she'd see in this Land of the Hebrews.

Weiss was trying desperately to track down a woman who works

at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba following the death of the woman's sister. Weiss called the hospital. The receptionist refused to locate the employee unless Weiss could identify the department where she worked. Weiss politely pleaded for assistance, explaining that it was a highly sensitive matter, but the receptionist disconnected her.

Weiss called again, begged for help, and was brushed aside with a rude "don't bother me, I have no time." Five times Weiss called, five times she was cut short. Not the kind of story you'd want to hear about a hospital.

The problem was speedily solved when a Russian immigrant who works with Weiss offered to try getting through. Instantly the immigrant made the connection — simply by speaking Russian to the receptionist.

Even after the call was completed, the receptionist kept the immigrant (a total stranger) on the line and found she had all the time in the world to chat with a landsman.

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A perfect divorce, we thought, but our children don't

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, When my husband and I decided to get divorced, we went to a mediator to help us reach a property and custody agreement. We were mainly concerned about our two children, aged seven and eight. The mediator emphasized the well-being of the children, and we followed all instructions to get them through the experience. Our divorce became final three months ago.

The problem is that the children seem to be getting worse. They keep trying to "get us back together." They mope around the house far more than they used to do. What went wrong?

Divorce in Doldrums Somewhere in Israel

Dear D in D,

It's wonderful that you put your children's well-being first. Ironically, though, sparing the children the "ugliness" of divorce may have left them wondering why you and your husband needed to split up. That may be why they're trying to get you back together. As the reality of the divorce sinks in, they are experiencing stress and possibly still in need of mediation or counseling.

Dear Ruthie,

I have been a lawyer for 20 years. I am even successful. But I want to change direction. My wife says that I'm going through a mid-life crisis which will pass. She's also afraid we won't be able to pay the bills while I find myself. But we have savings, and my wife earns enough to "hold the fort" for a while. Is it possible to make changes of this sort in your late forties?

Attorney-at-Law Tel Aviv

Dear A-A-L,

Where there's a will, there's a way. The difficulty - at any age - is examining whether there's genuine will, or half-hearted fantasy. Most people your age don't change direction, but enrich themselves with additional interests. But if you've got your heart set on change, go for it.

You shouldn't have to be unhappy if you have the luxury of making changes. But your wife's sentiments are legitimate, too. Begin your "search" while continuing to practice law. When something hits you hard enough, you'll know it, and will be capable of pursuing it.

Dear Ruthie,

My mother passed away six months ago. My father, who is 70, has started dating already. After 45 years of marriage, how can he be so quick to look elsewhere? When I tried to discuss this with him, he told me to mind my own business. He never used to speak to me that way.

Daughter-in-Distress Jerusalem

Dear D-in-D,

I agree with your father. It isn't any of your business. Being critical of his dating habits is tantamount to questioning his intelligence, his judgment and his loyalty.

It's natural for you to feel unsettled by your father's interest in someone other than your mother. But, just as your life must go on, so must his. Give him a little credit, and a lot of room.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Chug into the outback - in luxury

TRAVEL
JASON SZEP

As the train chugs through the harsh, sunbaked desert, Evelyn Thomson's expression sinks into disbelief as she looks out the window at the dusty contours of the Australian outback.

"It's strange," the 69-year-old American from upstate New York says slowly in a tone mixed with awe and curiosity. "As far as I'm concerned, this is all better than New York."

Thomson was aboard the historic Ghan train, named after the Afghan camel drivers who first carved the route from Adelaide in southern Australia to Alice Springs in the continent's dry desert heart in the late 1800s.

The original Ghan, which opened in 1929 after 50 years of construction, creaked over termite-ridden cross ties for weeks in blistering heat to usher a new era of industry into the unsettled outback and put Alice Springs on the map.

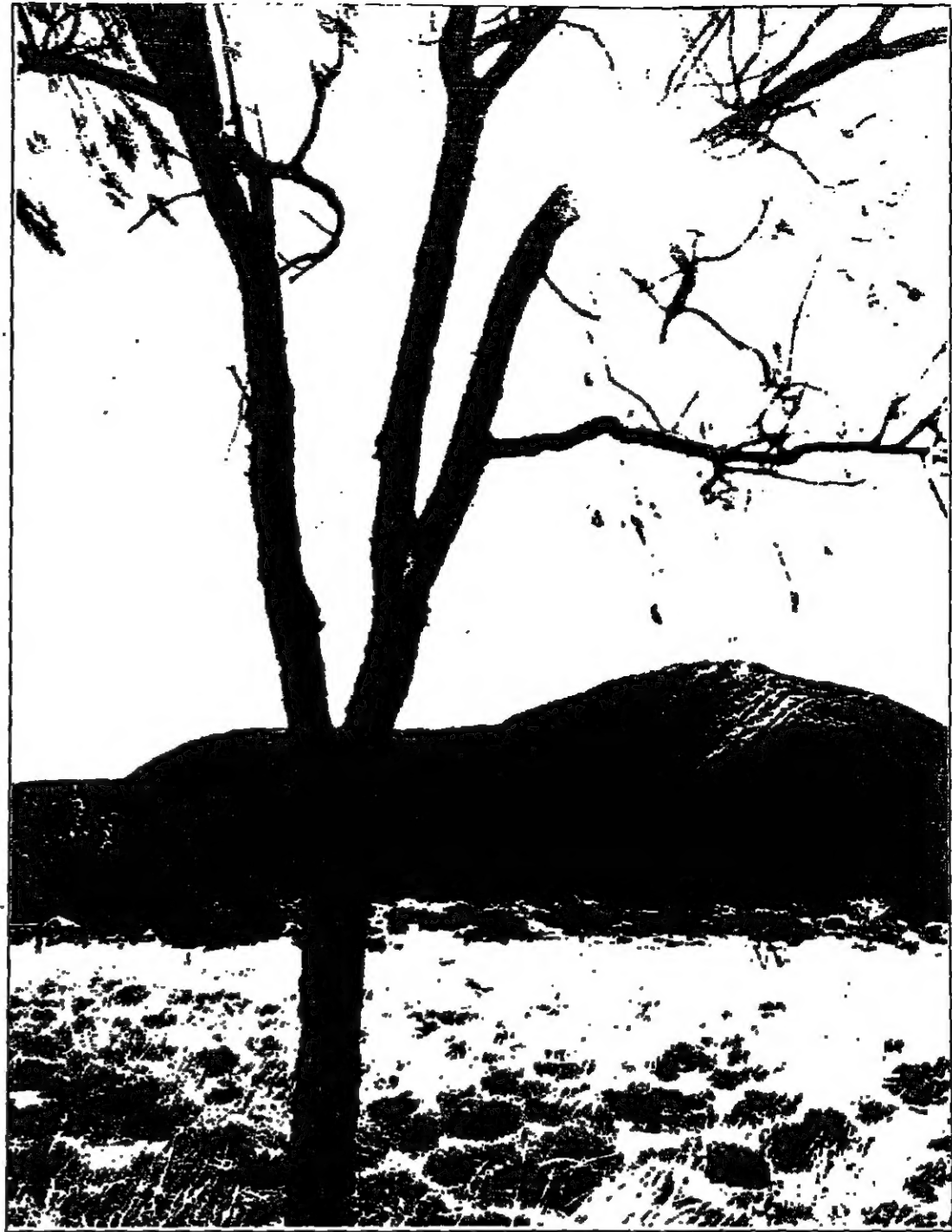
Now, the trip is done in 22 hours and is considered the most luxurious train ride in Australia, evoking the pioneering mystique of the original Ghan while symbolizing an effort to revive long-distance railway travel in the country.

"It's one of the Australian icons," explains Randall Whyte, a sales manager at Australian National Railways, a government-run agency that refurbished the Ghan in 1988. "It has a history behind it. We call it the legendary Ghan."

The Ghan now runs at speeds of 110 kph on an entirely new track. Ticket sales by international travelers are up 40 percent over the past five years.

"Not many use it as pure transportation. Most people treat it as a one-off novelty," Ghan steward Glen Dahlenburg says as he makes his way through the Ghan's 23 cars which stretch for one kilometer.

The Ghan's trip begins in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, where it rolls through grassy plains and foothills. From



To get to central Australia's Uluru, once known as Ayers Rock, most tourists ride the historic Ghan train; the massive red rock is the largest monolith in the world.

there, it traces a virtual straight line through old mining towns like Coober Pedy and Tarcoola to the Simpson Desert.

As complete darkness overtakes the train, it is easy to imagine the awe and harrowing emptiness felt by bands of workers in

the late 1800s, who rode for months across the desert on the backs of camels, laying a telegraph line between Adelaide and

Darwin on Australia's northern coast.

Time seems to slow as the Ghan chugs ahead. The sleeping cars, adorned in Art Deco motifs reminiscent of the era when the original Ghan blew its first whistle, begin to fill and lights are slowly turned off.

Some passengers, drawn from various quarters of the globe, linger in the lounge cars, swapping travel stories over drinks or sometimes stumbling on amusing cultural differences.

Passengers wake in the morning to find themselves in Australia's "red center" - a rugged, red desert considered among the oldest crusts of earth on the planet - as the train rolls toward the town known in the outback merely as Alice.

Early risers watch for kangaroos. Many passengers are in no rush to reach Alice Springs and say they use the time to relax from an otherwise busy travel schedule, reading books they've wanted to read for years.

"It's lived up to its expectations," said John Keohane, a British traveler and train buff who works as a beekeeper (warrior) at the Tower of London. "For me, the Ghan was a must."

The train has won the hearts of many tourists willing to pay up to A\$456 (NIS 1,044) for first-class tickets, but 45-year-old engine driver Lyton Launer still affectionately remembers the days of the original and often unreliable Ghan.

"There was no air conditioning on those trains. I don't think people could hack it today," said Launer, who has worked on trains for 24 years.

Dahlenburg nods and recalls times when the original Ghan would crawl so slowly people could walk beside it. "She was a classic," he says wistfully.

The refurbished Ghan is built for tourists and has no such sentimental quirks. Most use it as a colorful way to get to Alice Springs before heading west to nearby Uluru, the aboriginal name for the massive red monolith once known as Ayers Rock, one of the country's big tourist attractions. (Reuters)

Hop the QEII here for a taste of luxury

TRAVEL TIPS
HAM SHAPIRO

ISRAELIS can still join the refurbished Queen Elizabeth II when it stops in Haifa on March 30 on its way around the world. According to Ophir Tours, just a taste of luxury - a four-night sailing to Istanbul - starts at \$495. Prices for the 18-night leg to New York, with stops in six ports, start at \$2,225. Prices do not include the return trip.

INSTEAD OF slashing fares to the U.S. Delta airlines but it is offering a series of packages in which passengers pay as little as \$49 for a stay at hotels in a wide choice of cities, often in addition to a week's car rental. Most of the packages include three nights, but some are up to seven days. In Paris, the \$49 package includes either five nights in a hotel or a week's car rental.

SKI PACKAGES in Bulgaria are being offered by Natour at prices starting at \$595, including seven nights with half board and round-trip airfare. Six days of skiing lessons are available for \$90. Arkia is offering a seven-night ski package in the Austrian Alps for \$675, including hotel and breakfast and a week's car rental.

CHEAP FARES to Japan and Korea are available for students (up to age 28) and young people (up to 25) from Tel Aviv. Agents for Korean Airlines. A combination of a charter flight to London or Paris would bring the round-trip fare (via Korean Airlines) to Tokyo or elsewhere in Japan to \$1,093. Also available are add-on fares, using El Al

flights to Bangkok and Hong Kong.

Another option for students and young people is a tour to Jordan, scheduled by ISSTA for the semester break in mid-February. The tour is priced at \$319 and includes three nights in tourist-class hotels and half board.

TWO BRAZILIAN carnivals - in Recife and in Rio - are the attractions of a series of four tour packages organized by Bonissa. A 34-day tour, for \$7,480, includes Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Those who have either less time or less money can make do with a 14-day tour of Brazil alone, for \$3,850.

WHAT WAS a painful 18th-century civil war is now a tourist attraction, as Scotland celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Jacobite rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charlie this spring and summer. In addition to a series of "Jacobite Extravaganzas," with combat displays, music and drama, there are to be exhibitions in Edinburgh, at Culoden (where the prince's forces suffered their final defeat) and on the Isle of Skye, where the prince was hidden.

EILAT RESIDENTS, who already enjoy discounts on Arkia airfares to and from the North, now get a special deal of NIS 75 for a one-way midweek flight between Eilat and Ben-Gurion Airport. On weekends, the price for Eilat is NIS 103. The fare includes free transportation to or from the Tel Aviv Central railway station or Sde Dov.

Where the meek are passionate and monsters creak

FELICIA'S JOURNEY, by William Trevor. Viking, 213 pp. \$21.95.

THIS story has a classic simplicity: a duel between the meek and the monster. And guess who wins.

Felicia, a simple, stumbling Irish country girl, gets caught in the gunsights of the devil, in the person of the catering manager of a factory in the English Midlands. It is a close-run thing, at times, but in just about every folk tale I can think of, it is the devil who ends up upended.

William Trevor, who is good at a great deal, is particularly good with the meek; and most particularly with the rural Irish meek. He finds the passion in them and he finds the ruses they devise to preserve not only their lives but also something more: a kind of honor.

In Felicia, who comes to England to look for the lover who has lured her, he has a character no one can write better. He has written it several times, in fact, and in its double melody - the obligato of humility and a ground-bass of anarchy underneath - there is a practiced quality. Still, there are new notes to hear, some quite lovely.

With monsters, Trevor is less practiced but also less skilled. True, he can do splendid bulies, tricksters and arrogant bastards; but in each case he builds on their humanity and warps it just enough. His villains have their vitality. You might catch yourself growing fond of them. Like the green bay tree they flourish; there is sap there, and certainly life.

A monster, on the other hand,

is a kind of void. As the church fathers put it, evil is an absence. A writer can portray a man with a hole - an absence - in him, but a writer needs to be a special kind of metaphysician like Graham Greene, or else a pulp-horror master like Stephen King, to make the hole the character.

Hilditch, the pulpy, tiny-handed, gentle-mannered sex murderer in Felicia's Journey is not a character but a trap. Trevor rigs him adeptly, and gives him any number of creepy adornments. His mother had compulsive sex with every man she met - a policeman, a door-to-door salesman, a fellow-passenger in a train going through a long tunnel with child-hilditch watching - and finally with the boy himself.

AN EXPLANATION does not make a character, though, and neither do all the shuddery strokes with which Hilditch is drawn. He lives alone in a Victorian house with eight bedrooms and masses of mahogany furniture. He is a compulsive eater, continually shopping for food, preparing large breakfasts - and planning what he will cook next. That makes him a great success at the factory where he is highly esteemed for the devotion he musters to feed the workers.

From time to time he muses on what he calls his Memory Lane: Jakki, Sharon, Beth, Elsie and Gayle, all of whom, as he puts it, "parted from him."

Along comes Felicia, who took money from under her great-grandmother's mattress, packed some clothes bags, crossed the dismal Irish Sea on a sinking ferry and arrived in the bleak town where, she believes, her Johnny

BOOKS
RICHARD EDER



Trevor: Despite adept rigging, his monster is an explanation, not a character.

works in a lawn-mower factory.

Trevor goes back and forth between Felicia and Hilditch as they converge and, eventually, "part." Here is the glaringly conventional story of the plain village girl who meets a handsome young man at a wedding and is romantically impregnated and abandoned.

Johnny is over from England for 10 days; when he leaves he forgets somehow to give Felicia his address. Stubbornly she tries to trace him, by vague and inaccurate clues, to the little town north of Birmingham.

Trudging from one factory to another, she is hailed from a car

by a pudgy, gentle-mannered, middle-aged man. He directs her to the main factory district; later, encountering her again, he suggests a lodging house. On a third encounter he advises her to try a nearby town. He "happens" to be near the bus station when she returns from a fruitless trip; he makes up a story about a dying wife whom he must visit, and gives her a lift to still another town.

As Hilditch's thoughts play out, what was at first only suggested becomes increasingly certain. He had picked up a series of women, waifs like Felicia, tried to hold them in his care, and killed them when they broke away. The final scene is written in such a way that, for a while, we do not know whether he has killed her too.

Trevor creates an atmosphere of cloying nightmare around his monster. He uses a particularly effective device: Although we see things alternately through Felicia and through Hilditch when they are apart, the viewpoint is entirely Hilditch's when they are together.

Our vision is skewed in his fish-eye; it is almost as if he had trapped us along with Felicia.

Certainly there is suspense as the story plays out. Yet it is suspense of a peculiarly abstract kind. We wonder not what the characters will do, but what the author will do. Hilditch is not enough of a character to generate a moral or significant action; he is a device through which the author acts.

It is Felicia upon whom he acts, and she, indeed, is a real personage. Beneath her victim state, Trevor has planted hints of something else. There are sparks of exhilarating ruthlessness.

Most of all, there is a passage in which she moves beyond her quest to pursue an image of freedom that Trevor sketches in a fashion somewhere between realism and dream.

Too often, though, what is alive in Felicia is only hinted at. Most of the time it is overshadowed by the voice of Hilditch, the monster-contraption. It is almost as if Frankenstein's creature were to recount the life of Mary Shelley. (Los Angeles Times)

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	2928.88	-1.88
DJ 30	1000.00	-0.07
DJ 100	1000.00	-0.07
NASDAQ	1000.00	-0.07
NYSE	1000.00	-0.07
AMEX	1000.00	-0.07

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	2928.88	-1.88
DAX	1000.00	-0.07
Nikkei	1000.00	-0.07
Hong Kong	1000.00	-0.07
S&P 500	1000.00	-0.07

Israeli stocks in NY

Amich	1000.00	-0.07
Amich	1000.00	-0.07
Amich	1000.00	-0.07
Amich	1000.00	-0.07
Amich	1000.00	-0.07

LIBOR rates

3 months	5.125	-0.005
6 months	5.125	-0.005
12 months	5.125	-0.005
18 months	5.125	-0.005
24 months	5.125	-0.005

Commodity prices

Oil	1000.00	-0.07
Gold	1000.00	-0.07
Silver	1000.00	-0.07
Copper	1000.00	-0.07
Aluminum	1000.00	-0.07

US commodities

Wheat	1000.00	-0.07
Corn	1000.00	-0.07
Soybeans	1000.00	-0.07
Cotton	1000.00	-0.07
Wool	1000.00	-0.07

London commodities

Oil	1000.00	-0.07
Gold	1000.00	-0.07
Silver	1000.00	-0.07
Copper	1000.00	-0.07
Aluminum	1000.00	-0.07

Spot market metals (US)

Gold	1000.00	-0.07
Silver	1000.00	-0.07
Copper	1000.00	-0.07
Aluminum	1000.00	-0.07
Wool	1000.00	-0.07

New York metal futures

Gold	1000.00	-0.07
Silver	1000.00	-0.07
Copper	1000.00	-0.07
Aluminum	1000.00	-0.07
Wool	1000.00	-0.07

London metal futures

Gold	1000.00	-0.07
Silver	1000.00	-0.07
Copper	1000.00	-0.07
Aluminum	1000.00	-0.07
Wool	1000.00	-0.07

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Bottom falls out of market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO

Two-Sided index

Maof index

Karam index

THE hopes generated by Doron Levy's statements regarding the difficulties in implementing the Capital Gains Tax retroactively seemed to have been forgotten as the stock market gave one of its worst performances in recent days.

Led by redemptions by mutual funds, the bottom fell out of the market, particularly on the Maof. The Two-Sided index declined 2.9% and the Maof by 3%. Turnover was high by recent standards: NIS 97 million.

There are the eternal optimists who will always see the silver lining in the cloud; in this case, it has been argued that the declines on the stock market are, if anything, the market bottoming out.

Those who espouse this view argue that we are getting close to the levels at which the institutional investors intervened last July. In fact, we crossed that line a while ago in real terms. Bear in mind that prices today are 6% higher than last July.

The market is contracting and the only element of life is the activities of mutual funds. Only on those days when there are significant redemptions of mutual funds certificates can it be said that there is significant trading. Otherwise, things remain dull.

Blue chips were under strong selling pressure and dropped sharply even though some of them had reasons to rejoice. Dead Sea Works declined by 3.5% on the day when the government approved a law which will exempt it from the rigors of the Planning and Building Law. This will make it far easier for the company to develop its Dead Sea plant, particularly in the face of growing opposition from both ecological and tourism groups.

The Clal group declined across the board: Clal Electronics down 2.5%, Clal Israel and Clal Industries down 3%. La Nationale was down 5.7%, Bezek and Delet down 3.5%.

There was one part of the securities market which was particularly active: turnover on the Maof market was NIS 487 million, in terms of the underlying assets. Some of the Puts closed to double in price, a neat reversal of what went on on Tuesday when the Cals jumped.

FTSE stays steady

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares closed barely changed in a quiet, directionless market where merchant bank Warburg sparked on renewed bid speculation.

The overall market fell early on after news of a strong rise in December UK retail prices, which added to fears of interest rate hikes, dealers said.

But shares recovered with the help of rising FTSE futures, while the market also became convinced that the retail inflation figures were not as bad as appeared at first sight.

In the end, the FTSE 100 finished 0.5 point higher at 3,054.9.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed lackluster floor trading fractionally lower yesterday but recovered in post-bourse trade, supported by stronger futures contracts, dealers said.

Although the 30-share DAX index closed floor trading down 5.02 points at 2,078.85, the IBS DAX index climbed back to 2,085.62 after debt and DAX futures contracts firmed in late afternoon trade.

Friday's expiry date for stock options, options on the DAX and DAX futures options, kept prices stable throughout the morning, traders said.

Major players sometimes try to shift stock prices ahead of the expiry to maximize gains or minimize losses.

Tyre maker Continental AG shares were lifted 5.50 marks to 233 by foreign buy orders coupled with a break through key resistance at the 225 level.

Conti shares remained steady in after-hours trading, but dealers said profit-taking may soon set in.

Steel maker Thyssen climbed 1.90 marks to 296.70 in floor trading and rose to 299 in IBIS trade.

PARIS - French shares ended the day slightly higher on the back on a bond rally which gained after a key resistance level had given way. The long-expected announcement by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur that he was running for president did not have more than a fleeting impact on the markets. The CAC-40 index closed down 3.33, or 0.18 percent, at 1,860.27.

TOKYO - Stocks ended just a shade softer yesterday. Selling on rallies and profit-taking offset gains from continued brisk demand for construction-related stocks following Tuesday's earthquake in central Japan.

Otherwise trading lacked direction, but turnover rose considerably.

Individual investors have shifted focus away from the over-the-counter market and are now actively searching around for stocks in the first section that could benefit from quake-reconstruction programs, said Isao Maruta, managing director of Universal Securities.

The Nikkei share average ended off 18.01 points or 0.09% to 19,233.31.

HONG KONG - Shares ended the day with modest gains, but turnover was thin and the 350-point rebound that began the week fizzled out. The Hang Seng Index closed up 23.69 points at 7,630.20.

Turnover was a provisional HK\$2.2 billion, compared with a revised HK\$3b. for Tuesday.

Dow falls modestly

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with modest losses yesterday on fears that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again when its policy-making Federal Open Market Committee meets later this month.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 1.68 points at 3,928.98, based on early and unofficial data. In the broader market, declining issues led advances by a small margin on active trading of more than 342 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FF
MARK	0.147750	64.93/96	0.8410/13	3.4543/48
STERLING	2.4093/98	166.45/57	2.0282/82	6.3234/02
YEN	1.5917/03	0.6386/93	1.2948/57	5.3119/16
SFR	118.85/93	0.4930/34	77.18/24	4.1056/87
FF	0.2894/98	0.1200/01	18.77/82	0.2434/36

Prices from 23:30 local time

Hap J'lem tops Gvat, ties for 3rd

JOSH KALMAN

HAPOEL Jerusalem kept pace in the race for a spot in the Final Four with a 81-72 home victory over Hapoel Gvat last night, while the losers remained mired in 11th place.

The win puts Jerusalem in a three-way tie for third place, together with Hapoel Eilat and Hapoel Holon in the National Basketball League standings.

The game was never really in any doubt as the hosts, who were first to get on the scoreboard, led for the entire game. While Gvat's offense seemed sluggish, the red-hot shooting of Radenko Dorosh (31) and Jonathan Dalzell (22) never let up. By halftime, the capital city hoopers enjoyed a cool 20-point lead (52-32).

Gvat's foreign players, Rodney Munro and Derrick Gervin, made a determined effort to get back in the game, as they almost supplied virtually all their team's points in the second half. But the best they could manage was 75-69 with less than three minutes to go. A buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Munro made for a dramatic ending, but did little else.

Dorosh's and Dalzell's long-range fire kept a dazed Gvat at bay as they combined for 11 3-pointers. Jerusalem's Billy Thompson took care of things in close, netting 14 points and supplying some razzle-dazzle — a first-half reverse dunk which enthralled the 1,400-strong crowd.

Roi Eyal also helped the capital cause with 11.

For Gvat, Munro scored 26, Gervin the same, followed by Asaf Lev with five.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	18	1	30
2. Maccabi Rishon	15	4	28
3. Hapoel Eilat	11	8	28
4. Hapoel Holon	11	8	28
5. Hapoel Jerusalem	11	8	28
6. Hapoel Gvat	10	9	27
7. Hapoel Eilat	10	9	27
8. Hapoel Gvat	10	9	27
9. Hapoel Eilat	10	9	27
10. Maccabi Ramat Gan	6	11	23
11. Hapoel Gvat	5	12	21
12. Hapoel Eilat	4	13	21
13. Hapoel Gvat	3	14	20
14. Hapoel Eilat	0	18	18

Israel-Turkey warmup match scheduled

DEREK FATTAL

THE national soccer squad will play hosts Turkey in a final preparatory match on March 8th, before hosting France in the crucial Group 1 European qualifier on the 29th of the month.

National coach Shlomo Scharf was in France on a spying mission last night to evaluate the French performance against the Netherlands in their last scheduled international duel before the match in Ramat Gan.

Scharf was reported to be satisfied with the Israel Football Association's choice of the Turks, who currently hold third place in qualifying Group 3 of the European Championships.

The coming fixture will be the fifth since the nations first met in October 1950. On that occasion, the Israelis registered an impressive 5-1 victory, but lost the next three matches.

Maccabi TA: From the frying pan into the fire

League champs host Panathinaikos tonight

JOEL GORDIN

AFTER its 79-62 drubbing by Greece's PAOK Saloniki last week, Maccabi Tel Aviv returns to Yad Elyahu tonight to do battle with an even stronger Greek team — Panathinaikos.

After eight games in the European Club Championship final pool, Maccabi, at 4-4 (12 points), are in a fourth-place logjam with CSKA Moscow and Olympia Ljubljana. At the top of the pack, Real Madrid, Scavolini Pesaro and Panathinaikos are all tied for first with 6-2 marks (14 points).

The Greeks have no visible weaknesses: they are strong on both offense and defense, devastating under the boards, and have one of the best long-range snipers in Europe, Panagiotis Yanakis (formerly of Aris Saloniki).

If one takes the Maccabians' dreadful showing last week against PAOK as a barometer, they have no chance against their visitors tonight. At Saloniki, the Maccabi offense — and to a lesser extent the defense — collapsed under pressure in the second half.

Panathinaikos' galaxy of superstars — notably Yanakis, Zarko Paspali and Stojan Vrankovic — will

exert unbearable pressure on the Israelis throughout the game. If Maccabi plays as it did in its away game against Panathinaikos in November, the Israelis will have a better chance. Then they actually made up ground in the second half, only to lose a heartbreaker 63-62 through mistakes in the final seconds.

On the plus side, Maccabi apparently recovered from its morale-smashing loss at Saloniki and on Monday trounced league arch-rivals Hapoel Galil Elyon, 86-65. The one fly in the ointment was the poor showing of star shooter Doron Jamchee who played only 14 minutes and scored eight points. According to reports, the temperamental club captain had harsh words to say to coach Muli Kazurin in front of all the players after the game.

However, things have calmed down and Kazurin assured the press yesterday "there was no problem with Jamchee." Kazurin added cautiously: "We cannot let the win over Galil go to our heads. Galil and Panathinaikos are not in the same league."

The game will be shown live on TV from 8:30 pm.

No place like home for Magic

ORLANDO — The Orlando Magic raised their perfect record at home to 18-0 and snapped Charlotte's eight-game winning streak with a 109-98 victory over the Hornets Tuesday. Shaquille O'Neal scored 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter.

Anfernee Hardaway added 23 points and Nick Anderson contributed 18 points and 10 rebounds for Orlando, which improved to a league-best 30-7 overall.

Alonzo Mourning had 33 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks, while Larry Johnson scored 21 points for Charlotte.

O'Neal, who also had 15 rebounds, scored six of his points during a decisive 8-0 run that gave Orlando an 87-73 lead with 9:19 remaining, putting the game out of reach.

SuperSonics 115, Cavaliers 91. The SuperSonics have a little home court magic of their own going, raising their record in Seattle to 17-1 with their 16th consecutive home win.

Gary Payton scored 25 points and Detlef Schrempf added 21 as the Sonics raced out to a big first-quarter lead on route to a blowout.

The Sonics, who won their seventh straight overall, used an 18-4 run in the final six minutes of the first quarter to take a 31-14 lead. The Cavs never got their deficit under 10 points thereafter.

Cleveland, which was led by Terrell Brandon's 20 points, played without Mark Price, who has a sprained right wrist.

Suns 129, Nuggets 113. Charles Barkley scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and host Phoenix set a team record by sinking 15 three-pointers.

Dan Majerle scored 32 points and Danny Manning added 24, making 11-of-15 shots from the field. Majerle was 6-of-13 from three-point range.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	30	7	.811	—
New York	21	13	.619	7.5
Boston	19	15	.559	9.5
New Jersey	15	24	.385	15
Miami	11	34	.244	21
Philadelphia	10	25	.286	19
Washington	8	28	.222	20.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	23	12	.657	—
Charlotte	22	13	.625	.5
Indiana	18	18	.500	5.5
Chicago	16	20	.444	7.5
Atlanta	12	28	.303	11
Milwaukee	11	22	.333	13



ROUND THE BEND — Celtics point guard David Wesley drives past San Antonio Spurs forward Chuck Person.

and added six assists for the Suns, who improved to 17-2 at home.

Denver had closed to 94-93 on a basket by Brian Williams with 11:43 left in the fourth quarter when Phoenix embarked on a decisive 15-2 run, sparked by 10 points by Barkley.

The Suns also set another team record by committing just four turnovers — one short of the NBA record set by Portland in 1991 against Phoenix.

Denver is still looking for its first win since coach Dan Issel left the club.

Spurs 101, Celtics 92. Chuck Person scored 24 points and keyed a decisive fourth-quarter run as San Antonio won in Beantown. Person scored seven of his points in the first 4:31 of the fourth quarter, when the Spurs went on a 16-2 run to take an 89-71 lead.

David Robinson scored 18 points. TUESDAY'S RESULTS: San Antonio 101, Boston 92; Orlando 109, Charlotte 96; Phoenix 129, Denver 113; Seattle 115, Cleveland 91; Sacramento 95, Portland 88.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	26	10	.722	—
Los Angeles	22	12	.647	4
San Antonio	21	12	.636	3.5
Denver	18	18	.500	8
Dallas	17	17	.495	8.5
Minnesota	8	27	.229	17.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	26	8	.768	—
Seattle	25	9	.735	.5
LA Lakers	22	11	.667	4.5
Sacramento	20	16	.557	7.5
Portland	18	18	.500	9
Golden State	11	25	.303	15.5
LA Clippers	5	31	.139	23

Smashnova stays hot

Israeli downs Pitkowski to reach 3rd round; Courier set for showdown with Sampras

MELBOURNE — Anna Smashnova beat Sarah Pitkowski of France in straight sets yesterday to advance to the third round of the Australia Open. The Israeli 18-year-old disposed of her 22-year-old opponent 7-5, 7-5.

Smashnova, ranked at 46th in the ATP computer, is scheduled to face 12th-seed Brenda Schultz from the Netherlands in the third round. Schultz stopped Argentina's Bettina Fulco-Villella 6-1, 6-4.

In men's action yesterday, super-relaxed Jim Courier was heading for a quarter-final showdown with world No. 1 Pete Sampras after a stunning three-set demolition of Italy's Cristiano Caratti.

The ninth seed, finding Melbourne the ideal venue to parade a new laid-back image, followed up his impressive first-round victory over the Czech Republic's David Rikl with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 win over Caratti in just 80 minutes.

"It's a different atmosphere here... It's a lot more relaxed than the other three grand slams," said Courier, who has pledged to enjoy life more this year after a forgettable 1994 when his ranking slipped from

No. 3 to a year-end 13. Courier said he wanted to put 1994 behind him and play to his strengths, namely his serve and forehand, that won the singles titles here in 1992 and 1993. He lost to Sampras in last year's semifinals.

And he is likely to face the No. 1 seed again in the top half of the draw after his fellow American gave a similar awesome second-round performance in removing Jan Krosak of Slovakia 6-2, 6-0, 6-1.

The defending champion said he felt he had "nothing to prove" this year, but was wary of suffering the same fate as third seed Boris Becker, who made a shock exit on Tuesday night to unseeded American Patrick McEnroe.

Seventh seed Michael Stich lifted some of the German gloom yesterday with an easy straight sets victory over unseeded American Alex O'Brien, but Carl Uwe-Steeb, first-round conqueror of fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic, fell to Italy's Renzo Furlan.

No. 2 Conchita Martinez easily defeated another German, Veronika Martinek, in a second round match, but afterwards she complained of a sore neck that had severely hampered her top-

spin backhand. Seventh seed Kimiko Date also complained of recurring pain from an abdominal strain, which forced her to retire from a semifinal match against American Lindsay Davenport in last week's New South Wales Open.

Date, an Open semifinalist last year, had an easy first round straight-sets win against 58th-ranked Elena Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan but said the stomach strain had cramped her serve.

Date and other members of the Japanese contingent have been badly shaken by the earthquake disaster in and around Kobe with one leading player, Naoko Sawamatsu, learning that her family home has been destroyed and her best friend may have died.

Sawamatsu won her first round match yesterday only hours after being told that the biggest earthquake in central Japan in half a century had demolished her parents' home in Nishinomiya, east of Kobe, where the damage was greatest.

Her parents, grandparents and her brother are safe but she had been told by a friend early yesterday that her best friend may have died in the quake, which killed more than 2,000. (Reuters, AP)

NHL set to break the ice

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Having demonstrated that at least one side in the bitter dispute actually loves the game of hockey at least as much as money, the world's best players are set to return to the ice as the 103-day National Hockey League lockout comes to an end tomorrow.

The lockout-shortened 48-game schedule for the 1995 season presents a unique set of circumstances and challenges that are sure to delight some and anger others among fans and players alike.

If you've long complained that the 84-game schedule is far too lengthy a prelude to the truly exciting Stanley Cup playoffs, the 1995 season is for you — unless of course you live on the east coast and had your heart set on seeing Wayne Gretzky play.

With half as many games, each contest takes on added significance in the scramble for post-season positions. That should make for heightened intensity from the outset.

"With a 48-game schedule, it's like the playoffs start with the first game. There's no time to lose," said Montreal's star goaltender Patrick Roy.

Teams that get out of the gate fast will have a big advantage, while those that stumble out of the blocks could be in trouble. There will be little or no time to recover from an extended mid-season slump or injury.

Lack of conditioning from the lengthy layoff, combined with high intensity games with fewer rest days in between makes injury a particular concern.

"One thing is for sure. Most of the players in the league have a long way to go to be in top game shape," said new St. Louis coach Mike Keenan, who joined the

Bines just after leading the New York Rangers to their first Stanley Cup in 54 years last June.

Before the Rangers open against Buffalo tomorrow night, the 1993-94 Stanley Cup banner will be raised at Madison Square Garden, a ceremony Rangers General Manager Neil Smith feels will go a long way toward easing any bitter feeling New York fans may have over the near cancellation of the season.

"The glow will return Friday night. I'm still very excited about raising the banner," Smith said. "After the fans waited 54 years, three months is nothing, a piece of cake."

Under the format, announced by the NHL last week, the top 16 regular season teams, which concludes May 3, will be strictly an intra-conference affair. No Eastern team can meet a Western club before the Stanley Cup finals.

Eastern Conference fans will not see Gretzky, Russian Rocket Pavel Bure, Brett Hull or league MVP Sergei Fedorov, to name a few — a situation that could hurt ticket sales.

Western Conference clubs will not host Montreal — usually a sure sellout — nor will they get a shot at the defending champions. That's sure to disappoint the Vancouver faithful, eager to exact revenge against the team that ended the dream for their unlikely heroes in the seventh game of the finals.

And of historical significance, Smith points out, "Toronto will not play Montreal for the first time since the league started."

On the added excitement side, however, Smith notes that every game will be against an opponent vying for one of eight playoff spots in your conference, doubling the potential point swing.

Masinga's hat-trick lifts Leeds

LONDON (AP) — South African striker Phil Masinga scored three extra time goals as Leeds finally overpowered pesky Division Three team Walsall 5-2 on Tuesday to earn a place in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Walsall, which was denied an upset win at home by a late Leeds equalizer, twice hit back in the replay after the Premier League team had gone ahead.

Brian Deane's eighth minute goal was tied by Martin O'Connor's penalty and then Leeds defender David Wetherhead, who scored his team's late leveller at Walsall, managed to score for both teams at Elland Road.

The game went into extra time and substitute Masinga netted in the 103rd, 107th and 114th minutes to make sure Leeds advanced.

Division Two Swansea upset Division One leader Middlesbrough 2-1 on the road to set up a third game against a high flying Premier League team, either Newcastle or Blackburn, who were scheduled to replay late last night.

In other third round replays, Sunderland won 3-1 at Carlisle and Watford downed Scarborough 2-0.

In Scotland, Motherwell squandered a chance to trim Rangers 14-point lead by losing 2-0 at Kilmarnock.

FA CUP 3rd round replays: Carlisle 1, Sunderland 3; Leeds 5, Walsall 2; Middlesbrough 1, Swansea 2; Watford 2, Scarborough 2.

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Falkirk 1, Partick 3; Kilmarnock 2, Motherwell 0. SCOTTISH 2nd round replays: Greenock Morton 2, Queens Park 1.

Hey you! Wanna play big league ball?

NEW YORK (AP) — The ads are showing up in the sports section, although maybe they should be in the "Help Wanted" column.

"Could you make it in the Major Leagues?" read the bold-typed notices appearing in several Southern newspapers this week.

They were placed by the Toronto Blue Jays, who like every other team in the big leagues, are scrambling to find replacements for striking players.

Toronto plans to start spring training February 18. But under provincial law, the Blue Jays cannot play games in Ontario using replacement players, and the team has not said what it will do in that case.

The Blue Jays are holding a tryout camp for potential replacements this Saturday at their spring training home in Dunedin, Florida. Toronto is trying to attract as many players as possible to the workout, and trying different ways to do it.

The team is putting the ads in newspapers in eight cities, including Atlanta and Knoxville, Tennessee. On Monday, the advertisement appeared on page three of the sports sections of local newspapers in

Raleigh, NC, and Birmingham, Alabama.

The Blue Jays are looking "to discover new baseball talent," said the ads, both two columns wide and 5 inches deep. According to the Raleigh newspaper's rates, that space would cost about \$765.

Potential players must be between 19 and 25 years old and bring proof of age, along with their spikes, gloves and uniforms, it said. Players cannot be under contract to another professional team and cannot be in high school or junior college, or be from a four-year college and have eligibility remaining.

The advertisement lists the phone number of the team's scouting department in Dunedin and is signed "The Toronto Blue Jays."

"We've gotten quite a few phone calls already," a Blue Jays spokesman said Monday night.

He said that although most of the one-time ads were being placed in newspapers around Florida and Georgia, some would also run in North Carolina.

"There are a lot of former players in that area, and we want to let as many of them know about this as possible," he said.

pace man Darren Gough and all-rounder Craig White.

One piece of good news for England yesterday was the return of vice-captain Alec Stewart.

Stewart, who broke his right index finger in the second test against Australia in Melbourne on December 26, played in the light-hearted Origin of the Ashes match at Sunbury.

Udal latest casualty of England's jinxed tour

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Off-spinner Shaun Udal became the latest casualty of England's injury-jinxed tour yesterday when it was announced he will fly home after suffering a side strain.

Udal, 25, who picked up the injury while batting against Zimbabwe in a World Series match in Brisbane on January 7, woke up yesterday morning feeling intense

pain in his left side. "I had no movement, I couldn't lift my left arm up or down to bowl, so I knew things were bleak for me," Udal added. "It was a risk I wanted to take. I got through those games thanks to painkillers."

Udal becomes the fourth player to leave the tour following fast bowler Martin McCague, fellow

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TEL AVIV

Most soldiers who died in '94 committed suicide

DURING 1994, 37 soldiers were killed by enemy action; 25 in accidents; and 43 committed suicide, according to a report by the IDF Manpower Division presented to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Eleven of the accident victims were killed in road accidents. Twenty-seven other soldiers died in road accidents while on leave.

LIAT COLLINS

Of the other soldiers killed in accidents, three died during military operations; one in a weapons accident; six in air accidents; one in a training accident; and three under other circumstances.

Of the 43 suicides, 35, including two female soldiers, were drafted; five in the regular army; and three on reserve duty.

OC Manpower Maj.-Gen.

Yoram Yair said most of the suicides were not related to service conditions.

Of the soldiers killed in action, 21 fell in Lebanon and 16 in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Yair opposed demands by bereaved parents that the investigation of military accidents be placed in civilian hands. "If the IDF cannot investigate itself, the credibility of its officers will suffer," he said.

F-16 crash caused by pilot error

ALON PINKAS

MONDAY's midair collision between two F-16s, in which Capt. Danny Oberst died, was apparently caused by one of the pilots miscalculating the distance between the two planes as they approached each other at 15,000 feet, an air force source said yesterday.

"A miscalculation of this sort is uncommon in such exercises and at these altitudes, and there could have been a problem with the pre-flight plan," the source added.

The inquiry committee established by OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger yesterday debriefed the second pilot, who successfully ejected.

The source said vertigo has been ruled out as a possible cause, as has poor visibility.

The air force is checking the feasibility of recovering the wreckage of the two planes from the bottom of the sea.

Oberst was buried yesterday in the military section of the Ashdod cemetery. He was eulogized by his father, Stephan, and Bodinger.



A policeman greets his family yesterday after returning from Haiti. (Hanoah Grizitzky/Israel Sun)

Sergeant charged with smuggling cars into Gaza

AN IDF sergeant was charged in Jaffa Military Court yesterday with delivering stolen cars to the Gaza Strip for payment.

According to the charge sheet, the sergeant, who serves in the Maintenance Corps, would also smuggle cars to Gaza that had been taken with the owners' knowledge, so the owners could file false insurance claims.

The sergeant would meet the purveyor of the stolen car and drive with him to a Gaza crossing. The soldier would then take the wheel, thereby easily crossing with the car into the Strip.

In one instance, after delivering a car the sergeant put on a civilian jacket given to him by local resi-

dents and was driven deep into the autonomous areas to the Jabalya refugee camp. He made this trip unarmed. For this incident, the sergeant was charged with threatening state security and potentially interfering with army activities.

The sergeant was also charged with copying the key to an army vehicle and passing it to his contact, for the purpose of facilitating the theft of the vehicle. A remand hearing is to be held soon.

Last week, the court charged another soldier with smuggling five vehicles, including two army vehicles, into the Gaza Strip for NIS 1,000. That soldier was remanded until the end of legal proceedings.

Brooklyn Bridge gunman faces 141 years in prison

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

IN a courtroom not far from the scene of his crime, Rashid Baz was sentenced yesterday to at least 141 years in prison for the murder of Aaron Halberstam and the attempted murder of 14 other yeshiva students in last March's Brooklyn Bridge shooting.

"The court will recommend against release of this defendant on parole, ever," New York Supreme Court Judge Harold Rothwax said.

Aaron Halberstam's mother, Devora, had begged the court to take a strong deterrent stand, asking Rothwax "to show courage, that we don't bow to terror."

Halberstam, 16, died and three of the 14 other students were wounded, when Baz fired on their van.

The group was returning to Brooklyn from the Manhattan hospital where the Lubavitcher rebbe was being treated.

Outside the Manhattan Criminal Court Building during the hearing, a dozen protesters shouted: "Who do we want? Rashid Baz. How do we want him? DEAD!"

There is no death penalty in New York State, although such a provision is expected to pass in the state assembly this year.



Rashid Baz (center, in file photo) received 141 years for the Brooklyn Bridge shooting. (AP)

Baz was convicted last month after mounting a "Beirut defense," which contended that the Lebanese immigrant, 28, was not mentally responsible for his action because of the trauma he had suffered by growing up in the Lebanese capital. Baz has lived in the US for a decade.

The prosecution had called the shooting last March 1 an "act of terrorism" that targeted innocent people to make a political statement about events in the Middle East, specifically the murder of Arabs by Baruch Goldstein at the Machpela Cave in Hebron a few days earlier.

One of the wounded, Israeli-born Nahum Sasonkin, had suffered a serious head wound but survived. Sasonkin, who is deaf in one ear, slurs his speech, and walks with the help of a cane, made a brief statement in court yesterday, saying simply that he wanted justice.

Police peacekeepers return from Haiti

RAINE MARCUS

FAMILY members greeted the 28 policemen, who served as part of a UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti, with huge bunches of flowers when they arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, after a three-month stay there.

Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and other brass were also on hand to welcome by retired commander Gabi Amir and his force.

"The State of Israel and its police force praise you and welcome you home," said Hefetz. "You have proved that you can carry out missions on both national and international levels. You have brought honor to our country."

Chief Supt. Yair Keren described the difficulties and chal-

lenges faced in Haiti.

"The sights of abject poverty and disorder in this totally devastated country probably affected us the most," he said. "But it was a fantastic experience."

The team, he added, instructed the local force and accompanied local police on patrols "to ensure civilians' rights and safety."

Two members of the delegation returned around six weeks ago, after complaining of "impossible conditions."

Keren also said that conditions were not easy, but that the group functioned well together.

"We lived in the same hotel,

on the same floor, went to work together, returned together, then went out together," he said. "Usually, there were long lines to use the phone, then when your turn came after a week of not speaking to your family, the switchboard broke down."

"We missed our families, but all in all it was an exciting experience which I would not have missed."

Chief Inspector Jackie Albocher also said the poverty in Haiti was probably the most difficult thing to absorb.

"I will never forget the sight of a man drinking water from a sewer," she said. "Next to him, a pig was drinking the same water."

Hizbullah: Israel's conditions for withdrawal 'unacceptable'

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAEL'S conditions for withdrawing from southern Lebanon are totally unacceptable, Hizbullah's deputy leader Sheikh Naim Kassem declared yesterday.

"The Islamic Resistance is determined to fight until the last centimeter of Lebanese soil is liberated," Kassem was quoted as saying in Lebanese newspapers.

"We don't have sophisticated weapons, but we have faith and this guarantees our victory."

Furthermore, he warned that Hizbullah would "hunt down" murdering South Lebanese Army collaborators one by one, and that the "criminals and traitors

can never be part of the national [Lebanese] army."

Kassem said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who visited the security zone last week, could not change the situation by "tramping on Lebanese soil. He's not in a position to dictate terms."

Lebanese radio stations reported yesterday that a 31-year-old resident of Bint J'ail inside the security zone had died in El-Khiyam Prison, where he had been held for the past 10 years, and was buried in his village.

Hizbullah used the incident for

another propaganda broadcast on its radio station, saying the death was "another example of Zionist torture and inhuman practices in the jail."

Meanwhile, Hizbullah's rival, the Amal Shi'ite movement, announced that Fuad Ali Diab, 18, from Huleh, a Shi'ite village in the zone, was the SLA soldier its fighters had captured during fighting in the zone's central sector on Monday. Amal distributed copies of the soldier's ID card, written in Arabic and Hebrew.

Sources in the security zone said that after an investigation, they found no truth to the story.

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Labor consensus: Eli Dayan must go

BACKGROUND

EVELYN GORDON

THE consensus in the Labor Party seems to be that faction chairman Eli Dayan has to go.

However, although many would prefer he spare them the unpleasantness of taking action, Dayan is not cooperating.

After Dayan defied party discipline by refusing to withdraw his long-school-day amendment, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he expects Dayan to resign as chairman, and demanded an immediate meeting of the faction to discuss the issue.

"I think [Dayan] should resign on his own," agreed Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, saying Dayan had promised to do so two weeks ago. "If he has even a modicum of responsibility, he must return his mandate."

Dayan, however, said he has no intention of resigning, and pointed out that only the faction chairman has the right to call a faction meeting, which he refused to do.

"I think what I did will contribute to my party - that there are people who fight for education," he said.

The issue will therefore probably not be discussed until the faction's meeting on Monday, a delay welcomed by Dayan's friends.

who want a few days for tempers to cool.

Several powerful Labor MKs - such as Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Orr - are adamant Dayan must go.

"It's not possible to have a faction chairman who votes against the faction," said Orr. "Don't kid yourself: The argument wasn't over the long school day. The argument was over whether there was or wasn't a coalition decision."

"It pains me to say this, because he's a good friend of mine," said Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman Yossi Katz. "But he has to understand that he must give up his post."

He would prefer that Dayan do this of his own free will, Katz continued, but if not, he would "very seriously consider" ousting Dayan.

The voices in Dayan's favor came mostly from the three MKs who voted with him and a handful of others who wanted to, but

bowed to party discipline.

"I am very much in favor of Eli Dayan's proposal," explained Rafi Elul. "[What he did] was a matter of conscience, and there is no reason to oust him. But he should know that this is the last time."

Most of the party seemed to agree, however, that while action should also be taken against Amir Peretz, Yossi Vannunu, and Shmuel Avital, the three MKs who voted with Dayan, they were a minor issue compared to Dayan.

"The other MKs, the faction must have a discussion about them, but their status is completely different," explained Gideon Saguy, who has already submitted a formal proposal for Dayan's ouster.

Meretz, meanwhile, is burning over what happened, and has demanded "in the strongest possible terms" that Rabin restore order in his party, according to faction chairman Ran Cohen.

However, he added, the party would not demand Dayan's ouster as coalition chairman.

"We don't want to interfere in the Labor Party against one particular person," he said. "We're worried about several people."

Poll: Public wants extra budget used to improve schools

THE public would prefer to see any additional education budget invested in improving the infrastructure of schools even more than in a long school day, according to a Gallup poll.

The poll, conducted on January 11 and 12, revealed that 38.1% of those questioned believe that, first and foremost, the schools need to be improved in terms of infrastructure, including heating and air conditioning. But 35.6% said they would use the extra funds to extend the school day.

Another 21.6% said they would like to pay incentives to teachers who went to work in devel-

opment towns, while the rest had no preference. The poll was conducted by telephone on behalf of the Forum for Political and Social Thought and covered a random sample of 636 interviewees aged 18 and above in different parts of the country. It carried a 4% margin of error. Of the respondents, 39% said they have school-age children.

Asked whether they would prefer a six-day week which ended daily at 2 p.m. or a five-day school week that ended at 4 p.m., 57.6% opted for the first choice and 36% for the second. The remainder were undecided. BatSheva Tsar

Dirani's release demanded by Lebanese kidnappers

ANKARA (Reuter) - An unknown Lebanese group said yesterday it is holding a US officer and his son, missing in Turkey, and would call them if pro-Iranian terrorist commander Mustafa Dirani, held by Israel, is not freed within 48 hours, the Anatolian news agency said.

The agency said someone speaking in bad Turkish, claiming to be phoning from abroad on behalf of the Lebanon Freedom Fighters group, called three times saying the group has US Air Force

Lt.-Col. Mike Couillard, 37, and his son, Matthew, 10.

Israel Radio said an anonymous caller speaking English had called its offices in Jerusalem making a similar claim.

The two have been missing for three days after disappearing on a skiing trip. US troops joined the search for them on Tuesday.

Israel has been holding Mustafa Dirani, better known as Abu Ali, since May last year. Dirani is leader of the Faithful Resistance, allied with Hizbullah.

Ruling today on viability of wiretap charges

RAINE MARCUS

EFI Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur, the two private investigators awaiting trial on 40 charges of illegal wiretapping, were questioned for the first time in three months by the National Crimes Squad yesterday. Sources said they refused to cooperate.

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Zecharia Caspi is expected to decide this morning whether to order the district attorney to drop criminal charges against the two until a High Court decision is made next week on the transferring of prosecution evidence to the pair's defense lawyers.

Friedan and Tsur have been charged with bugging the phones, fax machines, and mobile phones of politicians, businessmen, and media figures.

Although police have hearsay evidence on the identity of the person who ordered the wide-scale tapping - allegedly a newspaper publisher - they still do not have sufficient evidence to bring him to trial.

Last month Friedan and Tsur's defense lawyers asked Caspi to

order the prosecution to hand over all evidence. The prosecution failed to do so and State Attorney Dorit Beinlich petitioned the High Court of Justice to withhold part of the evidence.

Much of the evidence, said Beinlich in her petition, was not relevant to Friedan and Tsur's trial and other evidence may disrupt police investigation into related wiretapping offenses.

Defense lawyers asked Caspi to cancel criminal proceedings until the High Court ruling. If he agrees, the prosecution will be faced with preparing the indictment all over again at a later stage.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal has already ordered the withholding of some evidence given by private investigators and newspaper publishers. The High Court is expected to rule on January 25.

Meanwhile Ya'acov Yachini, the private investigator arrested for allegedly tapping Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrod's phone, was released yesterday.

صكنا من الاموال